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CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

PERSIA.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament, by command of Her Majesty.
1841.

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CORRESPONDENCE

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CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

PERSIA.

No. 1.

Mr. McNeill to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 3, 1839.)

(Extract.)

Tabreez, December 26, 1838.

I HAVE the honor to inclose a communication I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil respecting an attempt made by Major-General Semino, of the Persian service, to seize a house which the Shah had put at the disposal of Major Todd, and which adjoined the garden of the British palace at Tehran.

The Persian authorities, and especially the Prime Minister, have disavowed all knowledge of, or concurrence in, General Semino's proceedings, and ultimately forced him to evacuate the house. There is, I fear, strong reason to presume that M. Semino spoke the truth when he asserted that he had been authorized to take the steps he had taken; but as the Persian authorities promptly and unequivocally expressed their disapprobation of General Semino's conduct, I presume that he alone must be considered responsible for his proceedings.

I perfectly concur with Colonel Sheil in the opinion he has expressed of the grave nature of the offence, and of the importance attached in Persia to the seizure of the house of an individual; and it is obvious that if the Shah desired to resume a house which he had assigned for the accommodation of a British officer, the course pursued was not that by which the accommodation ought to have been withdrawn. This was acknowledged by the Prime Minister in his conversation with Colonel Sheil, and by the steps which were taken to eject M. Semino.

I am of opinion that if the British Mission should return to Tehran, it will be necessary to require that some notice should be taken of this affair by the Persian Government, and though I should be sorry to cause the removal of M. Semino from the Persian service, on which he is dependent for his subsistence, or to have him subjected to any very serious evil consequences, I think that it might be proper to require that he should not be employed at Tehran, at least for a specified time.

M. Semino is of French origin, but was born in one of the Greek islands, of which I believe his mother was a native. His first employment in Persia was as a draftsman to Colonel Monteith, who was then employed in preparing his map of Azerbaijan. From the service of Colonel Monteith, M. Semino passed into that of Abbas Meerza, and has latterly been employed by the Shah as a military engineer. During the Herat campaign his services have been acceptable to the Shah, and having been wounded in the assault of Herat, he was, on the death of Major-General Borowski, promoted to that rank.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Mr. McNeill.

Sir,

Tehran, November 13, 1838.

ON the evening of the 10th instant it was reported to me that some servants of the Governor of Tehran, accompanied by the servants of M. Semino, who has lately received the rank of General in the Persian service, had endeavoured to effect an entrance into Major Todd's house overlooking the garden of the Mission, which they demanded should be vacated and given up to M. Semino. I directed them to be informed that it was an improper proceeding to attempt to take possession of a dwelling belonging to an English officer without making a reference to me, and that I could not consent to give them charge of the house. These persons then went away. Soon afterwards, M. Semino joined Mr. Riach and myself in the garden, and, after some conversation, mentioned that the King had directed him to take possession of Major Todd's house; to which intimation I replied, that the King having either bestowed the house in question on Major Todd, or lent it to him as quarters, and it being now in the hands of Major Todd, and actually in charge of the British Minister, it was out of my power to surrender it without a positive requisition from the Persian Government, with which I would communicate as early as possible on the following morning, and explain to it the claims of Major Todd. M. Semino said, that, if he did not obtain Major Todd's house, there would be an advantage to him in my putting forward a claim to it, as it would be an inducement to the Persian Government to use more celerity in procuring him quarters elsewhere.

Next morning, before I had time, on account of the illness of my writer, to address a letter to the Prime Minister, one of M. Semino's servants came to me and said, that he had brought his master's baggage, and requested admittance into the house. I refused, and told him he could not be allowed to enter it. This occurred twice. Soon afterwards the person in charge of the house brought me information that M. Semino's servants had climbed over the roof, and opening the door inside, had taken possession of the house, and placed their master's baggage in it. I proceeded to the house, and after causing the baggage to be removed into the street, I fastened the door. Accompanied by Mr. Riach, I then went to the Prime Minister's house, and related to him the circumstances; and told him, that if His Majesty had made a present of the house to Major Todd, it was not usual to recall a gift; and that if the house had been only lent to Major Todd, still, being now in Major Todd's possession, and under charge of the British Minister, it was an improper proceeding to order the servants of the Governor to endeavour to cause the house to be vacated without making an application to me, and still worse conduct in M. Semino's servants to enter the house in the manner they had done, but which I imagined to have been without the orders of their master. The Prime Minister protested his entire ignorance of the transaction; and after uttering very coarse invectives against M. Semino, he sent a message to Meerza Massood, directing him to tell M. Semino that he had no business with the house in question, that he had acted most improperly in interfering with it, and that his servants must be punished for their misconduct. He sent a similar message direct to M. Semino. The Prime Minister then made some excuses for the Governor of Tehran, in sending his servants to Major Todd's house to cause it to be vacated, and said, that he had acted through ignorance and without orders. When the Prime Minister was informed that M. Semino had stated to us that the King had directed him to occupy Major Todd's house, he declared that it was a falsehood, and that neither the King nor himself knew anything about the matter; "for," said he, "how is it possible that the King could remember anything about a house given to Major Todd?"

On our return I found that General Semino's servants had again entered the house, and placed his baggage in it. I had commenced removing it when I was informed that M. Semino was approaching, and I therefore awaited his arrival. When he entered the court-yard, I told him I was surprised at the conduct of his servants in entering the house by violence; to which observation he answered, with much rudeness of manner, that the house had been given to

him by the King himself, as was proved by an order in the King's own handwriting in his hands, and that he would defend the possession he had obtained. A conversation ensued, in which he justified his conduct by repeated and earnest declarations that the King had directed him to occupy Major Todd's dwelling; and when I objected to the mode in which it had been effected, he answered, that he considered it necessary for him to protect himself from the imputation of being an adherent or friend of the English, and that any hesitation on this occasion might give room for exciting suspicions against him. When I informed M. Semino that the Prime Minister had declared that the King as well as himself was ignorant of the whole affair, he declared that the Prime Minister had uttered a falsehood. More than once he informed me that his servants had acted by his orders, which were to take possession of the house, right or wrong, (hookman, as M. Semino said in Persian;) and he also repeatedly stated that he had the King's order in his own writing for occupying Major Todd's dwelling. I then quitted the house, not having a sufficient number of persons with me to ensure my being able to eject M. Semino, and feeling that an unsuccessful effort would place the affair in a worse condition in general estimation.

Before the house was vacated, I was obliged to address three notes to the Prime Minister: several messages had been sent to M. Semino by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, directing him to leave Major Todd's house, yet he continued in possession until the next day, having retained the occupation for nearly twenty-four hours.

I addressed a letter to the Governor of the town, inquiring if his servants had acted by his orders in presenting themselves at the house of an English officer which was in charge of the British Minister. His reply (unsealed), a copy of which I inclose with a translation, would seem to throw the blame on the Minister for Foreign Affairs; but I was informed to-day, by a person who states himself to have been present, that the day before the occurrence the Prime Minister had directed the Governor to take possession of the house, and I feel satisfied that M. Semino acted under the belief that he had received the sanction of the Shah for occupying Major Todd's house; but his statement having been formally contradicted by the Prime Minister, he becomes the person responsible for the affront offered to the British Government. Your Excellency knows well that the occupation of his house is one of the last and most unequivocal degradations which are inflicted on a Persian by this Government. What impression this occurrence has produced I cannot tell, as no one visits Mr. Riach or myself.

The Prime Minister has been apprised of my intention to acquaint you with the foregoing circumstances.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Sub-Inclosure in No. 1.

Translation of a Letter from the Governor of Tehran to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

A.C.

WITH regard to the house you have written about; Formerly, his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs sent me a message that the Government had paid the cost of this house, and that, agreeably to orders, it was to be considered available. You ought to make your inquiries from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is well acquainted with all the circumstances, and will give you the necessary information.

Translated by
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

No. 2.

Mr. McNeill to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 3, 1839.)

My Lord,

Tabreez, December 27, 1838.

I HAVE the honor to inclose for your Lordship's information, a copy of a letter from Captain Hennell, the Honorable East India Company's Resident at Bushire, informing me of another outrage committed by the populace of that place, against a servant of the Residency.

In my reply, I have recommended to Captain Hennell, if ample redress should not be given by the Government of Shiraz, to remove the Residency to the Island of Karrak.

I trust your Lordship will approve the communication I have made to Captain Hennell on this subject.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN Mc NEILL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

*Captain Hennell to Mr. McNeill.**Residency in the Persian Gulf,*

Sir,

Bushire, November 21, 1838.

IT is with much regret that I again find myself under the unpleasant necessity of bringing to your notice another gross and unprovoked outrage, committed at the instigation of Sheik Hussein, the Cazee of this town, upon the person and property of the Shroff belonging to the British Residency.

In consequence of a dispute between the merchants of Bushire and Meerza Abbas, the Governor, (regarding the settlement of certain duties which they alleged had been already paid to Sheik Nasir while in power,) the bazaars were closed. On the morning of the 17th, Meerza Abbas sent his Farashes to compel the inhabitants to open their shops. Upon this, Sheik Hussein directed them to refuse compliance, and to assemble in arms round his house. Upon pretence of one of the Meerza's Farashes being intoxicated, an order was given by the Sheik, that all the wine found under the roofs of the Jews should be destroyed. Upon this, the rabble, led by the Cazee's slaves, and a certain Syud Ali, (whose name, as being concerned in a former outrage, has already been brought to your Excellency's notice,) proceeded to the Jew's Muhullah, and having, among others, forcibly effected an entrance into the house of the Residency Shroff, they destroyed wine and spirits, packed for exportation, to the value of 40 or 50 tomauns, and at the same time so beat and ill-treated the owner himself, as to compel him to take refuge in the Residency, under fear of his life. Upon the occurrence of this outrage, I sent my Meerza to the Governor, to know what steps he intended to take in consequence. His reply was to the effect, that the turbulent rabble of the town, instigated by the Cazee and the merchants, had not only wholly thrown off his authority, but were endeavouring to expel him from the place. He further entreated that I would make an early representation to the Prince of Shiraz (who was then at Cazerom), of the real state of affairs here.

Adverting to the gratifying prospect of a satisfactory adjustment of our relations with Persia, and the hope expressed by your Excellency in your private letter of the 9th October, that I had been permitted to persevere in the course adopted to avoid all hostile collision with the Persians, I felt unwilling, notwithstanding the ample means now at my disposal, to take upon myself the punishment of the authors of this unprovoked aggression upon a dependent of the British Residency. I have, however, laid the circumstances of the affair before the Prince of Shiraz, with an intimation of my earnest expectation, that full redress will be afforded. I confess, however, that I have but little hope of anything satisfactory being done by His Royal Highness, and I therefore trust

that it may consist with your Excellency's views, to demand the removal of Sheik Hussein, Sheik Sulman, and their dependents, from Bushire, and the punishment both in person and property of the individuals who rendered themselves conspicuous on this occasion. I venture to think that some such serious notice should be taken of the outrage now reported, as I fear that both our character and influence will be lowered in this quarter, if these repeated insults on the part of the Cazee be allowed to pass without the exaction of ample and fitting satisfaction.

In doing myself the honor to intimate to your Excellency, that I shall take an early opportunity of informing you what steps, if any, are taken by His Royal Highness the Prince of Fars, consequent upon my representation,

I have, &c.,

(Signed) S. HENNELL,
Resident, Persian Gulf.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Mr. McNeill to Captain Hennell.

Sir,

Tabreez, December 24, 1838.

I HAVE had the honor to receive your letter of the 21st November, detailing the circumstances under which the populace of Bushire, instigated by the Cazee, had committed a flagrant outrage on the person and property of the Residency Shroff, and though it does not appear that the Governor of Bushire was a party concerned in, or consenting to, this outrage, it is my opinion that it would be altogether inadvisable that the Resident should continue to reside in a place where he is exposed to such indignity, and his servants to such violence. You are aware that the state of affairs at the Court of Persia, precludes every hope of my being able to procure redress for this act of violence, by means of an application to the Shah and his Ministers; and if such ample redress should not be afforded by the Government of Fars, as will enable you to remain at Bushire with perfect confidence that you will not be exposed to the recurrence of such outrages, I am of opinion that the most becoming and advantageous course for you to pursue, will be to remove the Residency to the Island of Karrak, and to intimate to the Government of Fars, the cause of your having had recourse to that measure.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN Mc NEILL.

No. 3.

Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 9, 1839.

WITH reference to Mr. Mc Neill's despatch of the 26th of December, inclosing your report of the attempt made during your late residence in Tehran to dispossess Major Todd of a house in that city, which, by permission of the Shah, that officer had been in the habit of occupying, I have to instruct you to address a letter to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that Her Majesty's Government have been made acquainted with the particulars of this transaction, and have directed you to demand a written and formal apology from the Prime Minister for this affront.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 4.

Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 9, 1839.

WITH reference to Mr. Mc Neill's despatch of the 27th of December, I have to instruct you to address a letter to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that Her Majesty's Government have been made acquainted with the particulars of the outrage recently committed at Bushire upon the person and property of an individual in the employment of the British Residency, and have directed you to demand satisfaction for this outrage, and the punishment of the persons concerned in it.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 5.

Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 11, 1839.

MR. Mc NEILL, since his arrival in this country, has informed me that previously to his departure from Persia he recommended to you that in the event of any communication being made to you by the Persian Government, with a view of tendering through you to Her Majesty's Government the reparation and satisfaction which has been demanded for the outrage committed on the British Messenger, you should refer any such communication home, and, having intimated to the Persian Government that you had done so, await instructions from Her Majesty's Government, and not return to Tehran until you had received them.

I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government concur in Mr. Mc Neill's view of this matter, and I have accordingly to instruct you to conform your conduct thereto.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 6.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 6.)

(Extract.)

Erzeroom, February 13, 1839.

THE fact of the Shah not having concluded any Treaty with Herat, together with the retention of Ghorian, Furrâh, &c., coupled with the information of an intention to send a sirdar to Ghorian, seems to denote that he has not yet relinquished his views of conquest in Affghanistan.

The possession of Ghorian by Persia appears to be, in point of disadvantage to British interests, secondary only to the occupation of Herat by that Power. This fortress, though not at present a place of much strength, might without difficulty be converted into a fortification—strong enough to resist any efforts the Herat Government could make against it. It is situated forty miles west of Herat, between which city and Ghorian is a tract of uninterrupted fertility, while to the west and north-west of Ghorian, for several marches the country is a desert. A strong Persian garrison occupying Ghorian would be placed in a situation which would enable it to exercise a control over the whole of the resources of Herat, in the event of war or of the appearance of a war. Besides this, if the Persian Government be permitted to retain this post, it will not only be able to foment intrigue and dissension in Herat and in the rest of Affghanistan, but may take advantage of division amongst the Heratees to possess itself of the city; and the Shah, as long as he is permitted to occupy a military position so near to Herat, is not likely to renounce his hopes of becoming master of this favourite object of his wishes; and apparently the entire

destruction of these hopes would be one of the best and most speedy methods of restoring the relations between England and Persia to their former condition.

Though the events which are now passing in Affghanistan may make these speculations superfluous, the subject appeared to me of sufficient importance to render it desirable to attract to it your Lordship's attention.

No. 7.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

Erzeroom, March 4, 1839.

YOUR Lordship will perceive from the accompanying extract of a letter, from the Resident at Bushire, which I have the honor to transmit, with a letter from the Prince of Shiraz to that gentleman, and his reply thereto, that the Government of Shiraz has declined to afford any reparation for the attack on the house of the Treasurer of the Residency and the consequent loss of property, the details of which were announced to your Lordship in Mr. Mc Neill's despatch of the 27th of December, 1838.

The Government of Shiraz, by asserting that the Treasurer was a native of Persia, has denied, by inference, his right to protection as a person in the employment of the British Resident, which is precisely the ground assumed by the Prime Minister of Persia, when a demand was made for satisfaction for the outrage committed on the messenger at Herat.

It appearing to me, that whatever impression may have been produced at the Court of Persia by the removal of the Mission to Turkey, is likely to be weakened by the continuance of official intercourse on the part of a British Authority at Bushire, I have instructed Captain Hennell to avoid official communication, unless under pressing circumstances, with the Government of Shiraz. A copy of my letter on this subject to that officer accompanies this despatch.

Captain Hennell has informed me, that Meerza Abbas, the then Governor of Bushire, when the last attack on the Shroff by the rabble of Bushire took place, has been removed from the government of Bushire, and has been replaced by Meerza Assad Oolla. This change has been effected by a deputation of Bushire merchants who went to Shiraz with complaints against Meerza Abbas, and appears to be wholly unconnected with any transaction in which the British Resident has been concerned.

I have, &c.,
(Signed.) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Captain Hennell to Mr. Mc Neill.

(Extract.)

Bushire, December 28, 1838.

IN the 3rd paragraph of my letter to you of the 21st of November, regarding the affairs of Bushire, and the assault upon the person and property of one of the dependents of this Residency, I did myself the honor to state that I had addressed an areza to the Prince Governor of Fars on the subject.

Shortly after the arrival of the new Governor, Meerza Assad Oollah, I received a rukum bearing the seal of His Royal Highness, in reply to the areza above referred to, but entertaining some suspicion touching the genuineness of this document, I did not think it advisable to lay it before your Excellency officially. A sufficient time, however, having now elapsed for the arrival of a reply to the duplicate, which I forwarded on the 8th instant, and no notice having been taken of that communication to the present date, I am reluctantly compelled to believe, that the rukum in question conveys the real sentiments of His Royal Highness upon the complaint brought to his notice, and accordingly I inclose a translation of that document for your Excellency's information. It is needless to observe, that the assertions regarding the unfortunate sufferer not being

a dependent of the British Residency, and of his retailing wine, are untrue, the spirits destroyed under his roof being packed for exportation to an inhabitant of Bombay. The terms in which this reply, as well as most of those hitherto given by His Royal Highness, are couched, render it, I apprehend, sufficiently evident that under the present Government of Shiraz little, if any, hope can be entertained that our representations will be favorably received and attended to. I have, however, determined to make one more trial, and now forward for your Excellency's information a copy of a second areza, addressed to His Royal Highness.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Translation of a Rukum from Feridoon Meerza, Prince Governor of Fars, to the Resident in the Persian Gulf.

No date.

THE representation of the one exalted in dignity, regarding the attack on the house of the Shroff at Bushire, has been received and understood. After investigation it has been discovered, that that person is a Jew, and intended to sell the wine. In Mahomedan countries such conduct is contrary to law, and they therefore forbid his doing so. In the first place this Jew is a Bushire subject, and not one of your people; and, secondly, supposing the circumstance, stated in your letter, to have occurred, it was not an affair of such consequence that you should appeal to the Government of His Majesty the Shah, and the Wuzeer Mooktar (Her Britannic Majesty's Minister). Many things of a much more illegal and irregular nature than this have taken place in that direction (Bushire), but I have not deemed it proper to make representations regarding them to the Royal Ministers.

I have ordered the high in dignity, Meerza Abbas, to return to me; and the high in dignity, Meerza Assad Oollah, Superintendent of Revenue, who is appointed to succeed him, has been commanded to make strict inquiries, and in the event of the complaint proving well founded, to inflict ample punishment.

Should you have other affairs you will represent them.

True Translation.

(Signed)

S. HENNELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 7.

Captain Hennell to Prince Feridoon Meerza, Governor of Fars.

(Extract.)

A. C.

Bushire, December 28, 1838.

THE rukum of your Royal Highness addressed to me, in reply to my areza on the subject of the irregular proceedings of the rabble of Bushire against the person and property of one of the dependents of the British Residency, has been received and its contents understood.

Some time since your Royal Highness was pleased to remark, that there was no occasion to trouble the Shah and the Wuzeer Mooktar, in the event of the conduct of the authorities or inhabitants of Bushire being such as to afford causes of complaint against them on the part of the British Residency, but that, on a representation being made to Shiraz, your Royal Highness would afford every redress. Relying on the kindness of your Royal Highness, I represented the treatment one of our dependents had experienced, but I regret to see without effect, as not the least notice has been taken of these proceedings by Meerza Assad Oollah.

It is true, as intimated in the rukum of your Royal Highness, that the Shroff is a Jew and a native of Bushire; but your Royal Highness is doubtless

aware, that, by the established rules and customs, those who are in the employ of the British Government, and receiving a fixed salary for their services, become entitled to the same protection as British subjects. It is now six years since the individual in question has been in the service of this Residency, and during that period has always behaved himself with propriety. I beg to assure your Royal Highness, that the assertion of his selling wine is unfounded in fact; as, had that been the case, he would have been immediately dismissed. The large quantity of spirits which was destroyed in his house was not for sale, but was packed for exportation to India.

Meerza Abbas, who is present with your Royal Highness, and is well acquainted with all the people of Bushire, will confirm what I have stated regarding this affair.

Inclosure 4 in No. 7.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Captain Hennell.

Sir,

Erzeroom, March 4, 1839.

WITH reference to that part of your letter of the 28th of December, accompanied by two inclosures, in which it is stated that you had again addressed the Prince Governor of Fars on the subject of the outrage which had been committed by the rabble of Bushire on the Treasurer of the Residency, in answer to a refusal by His Royal Highness to afford any redress, on the plea that the Treasurer was a native of Persia, I think it right to intimate to you that should you have failed on this occasion to obtain reparation, it appears to me inexpedient that you should make any further application on this subject to the Government of Shiraz. The circumstances have been reported to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and as the Mission has not only ceased to hold official intercourse with the Court of the Shah, but has also quitted Persia, I consider that it would be unadvisable, unless under urgent circumstances, that you should continue to hold official communication with the Government of Shiraz, it being probable that this would have the effect of lessening whatever impression may have been produced by the removal of Her Majesty's Mission from Persia.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

No. 8.

Sir John Barrow to the Hon. W. Fox Strangways.

Sir,

Admiralty, June 18, 1839.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of three letters which have been received from Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Maitland, Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's ships and vessels in the East Indies, relative to the state of affairs in Persia, and to his proceedings in the Persian Gulf; and I am to request that you will acquaint Lord Palmerston that my Lords presume that they are to approve of the conduct of Sir Frederick Maitland.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

Sir Frederick Maitland to Charles Wood, Esq.

"Wellesley," at Karrak,

Persian Gulf, April 1, 1839.

Sir,

IN reference to my letter of the 20th ultimo, announcing my arrival at Bushire in Her Majesty's ship "Wellesley" from Bombay, I beg to transmit for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copy of a letter which I addressed to the Bombay Government on the 30th of last month, upon the subject of the unpleasant state of affairs on the part of Persia, and the consequent removal of the British Residency from Bushire to this island.

Their Lordships will by this communication be put in possession of a detailed account of the occurrences which have taken place since my arrival here; and although I much regret that any misunderstanding should have occurred between the Governor of Bushire and myself, I am sure their Lordships will approve of the measures I felt myself called upon to adopt for repelling the insulting and unfriendly conduct evinced by the Governor towards me; and for upholding the honor and dignity of the national flag, as well as to guard against further aggression, which it appeared, from the decidedly hostile proceedings of the 25th ultimo, I had had good reason to expect would be attempted by the Governor; whose sole object was, without doubt, to interrupt the communication between the British Resident and the shipping, and to make me the first instance of the application of a rule which had never before been known to exist; and also to practise a series of annoyances by which to render the position of Captain Hennell irksome in the extreme, under a supposition that we dared not resent his insults.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

FREDERICK L. MAITLAND.

Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

Sub-Inclosure in Inclosure 1.

Sir Frederick Maitland to James Farish, Esq.

"Wellesley," at Karrak,

Persian Gulf, March 30, 1839.

(Extract.)

I HAVE the honor to state that, in compliance with the request conveyed to me in your Honor in Council's letter of the 21st ultimo, I sailed from Bombay in Her Majesty's ship "Wellesley," bearing my flag, for the Persian Gulf on the 23rd of that month, and, after a favorable voyage, arrived at Muscat on the 5th instant.

After leaving Muscat on the 6th instant, we arrived at Bushire on the 20th, and I was sorry to find that a very different feeling from what we had so recently met with at Muscat, existed on the part of the Governor of that place, who, although he had not committed any insult so gross as to oblige the Resident to withdraw, had nevertheless by a number of petty annoyances rendered Captain Hennell's position so very irksome and precarious, that he felt assured, if the course hitherto pursued towards him were continued, his quitting Bushire and proceeding to Karrak would become a measure of necessity.

This state of affairs, however, could not, and did not, continue long without coming to a crisis, which was effected in the course of the 24th and 25th instant, and though I wished the Resident to be in no way influenced by what took place between myself and the Governor, yet, as I have been a good deal concerned in the late transactions, I think it right to detail the circumstances which led to the unpleasant occurrences I am about to state.

The Honorable Company's Resident did me the honor of a visit on board the "Wellesley" on my arrival at Bushire, and as soon as the weather admitted, I repaired to the Residency for the purpose of returning that compliment. On the Governor's hearing that I was on shore, he sent to say he would visit me at the Residency on the following day; and during that ceremony, which took

place at the time appointed, although he expressed dissatisfaction at the occupation of Karrak by the British troops, nothing unpleasant occurred, and we parted in apparent cordiality. On the 24th I returned the compliment, by waiting on the Governor at his house.

On the morning of that day, some "stock," which had been purchased for my private use, was, from the unfavorable state of the weather, sent down to the custom-house landing-place, at the other end of the town, to be shipped from thence in a native boat, instead of its going from the Residency in one of the "Wellesley's" boats, as was at first intended. To this step the custom-house officers objected, and refused to allow the stock to pass, without a note from the Residency with a list of the articles, and my servant was therefore obliged to obtain the same before the stock was permitted to be put into the boat.

During my visit to the Governor, I took occasion to observe that it was strange he should have considered it necessary to prevent stock for my use from passing off to the ship. He replied it was one of the regulations of the place that he could not depart from, and must be complied with; to which I said it was not usual amongst nations on friendly terms with each other, to make or enforce such rules; that I was not aware they had existed, but would be careful in future that they should be complied with, by sending the required note to him, when I wished again to ship any articles for my own consumption. He then added, that landing anywhere except at the custom-house was quite irregular, and could not be permitted; and that the "Wellesley's" boats landing at the British Residency could not be suffered. On referring to Commodore Brucks, and two Captains of the Indian navy who were also present, they assured me that no such restriction had ever been attempted, and the Commodore stated that for nearly thirty years he had been in the constant practice of landing at, and embarking from, the British Residency, and also of taking off any stock or other goods he might require. On which I informed the Governor that I would not be deprived of the power of communicating directly with the British Resident, and of landing abreast of his house whenever I pleased, instead of going to the custom-house stairs; that it was a privilege which had always been enjoyed by the Company's servants, and I would not think of having it questioned in the person of myself and those under my command; and that, as it was my intention to embark from thence on the following day, I begged to know if he meant to attempt to prevent me from doing so? To this question he would not give a direct answer, but evaded it by repeating that it was irregular and could not be allowed.

As it appeared to me that any new regulations which were to affect the position of the Resident, ought to have been proposed to that officer and discussed with him, I was determined I would not establish a precedent by acceding to them, without their having been submitted to and sanctioned by Captain Hennell.

Finding that the Governor was little disposed to treat me with the consideration I thought due to my rank and position, as Commander-in-chief of Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces in India, I rose to depart, intimating that as the whole line of his conduct was so unfriendly, I would not remain longer; upon which he got up from his chair, and taking me by the arm, pressed me so strongly to sit down again, that I was induced to do so, under the impression that he meant no longer to object to my proposal of embarking from the landing-place in front of the Residency on the following morning.

After sitting a few seconds, I requested Dr. Mc Kenzie, who had been kind enough to perform the office of Interpreter, to again put the question to the Governor, as to his intention of preventing my embarkation from the Residency; but he still evaded it; when I arose and walked out of the house, repeating my determination to go on board on the following morning from the Residency, and informing him that no obstacle he could oppose should prevent me from doing so.

I had hardly returned to Captain Hennell's house, when a military guard was sent down and took up a post in an old tower about 100 yards on the left of the Residency, and another party formed a breast-work of sand bags, about the same distance on the right, both positions commanding the landing-place, and at which two positions no guard had been stationed before.

On my return to the Residency, Captain Hennell addressed a note to the Governor on the subject of the attempt to interrupt the direct communication

between the Residency and the shipping, which had been so long carried on, and demanded a pledge that the usual privilege should not be infringed, under the alternative of the Residency being removed from Bushire; but the answer returned was unsatisfactory, and signified that the promise required could not be given, until a reference had been made to, and an answer received from, the Government of Shiraz.

As I considered the Governor's conduct to have emanated from a determination to insult me personally, and through me the dignity of the national flag, especially as the guards before mentioned did not make any effort to prevent a boat belonging to the "Elphinstone" from landing at the Residency at this moment, with an officer and the luggage of Commodore Brucks, I determined to take such measures as would prove that he could not do so with impunity, or indeed that he could prevent me from returning to my ship, when and from whence I pleased, and therefore I directed Captain Maitland to send the "Wellesley's" boats on shore, manned and armed, early on the following morning, to guard against any insult being offered to me in going off, and to protect me should violence be attempted.

Being at the same time desirous of preventing any collision between the Persians and ourselves, and thinking the advance of armed boats towards the town might create alarm amongst the people, and give the Governor an excuse for assembling a force to repel them, I requested Captain Hennell to acquaint him by letter that I had, in consequence of what had passed between him and myself, ordered the boats of the "Wellesley" to attend at the landing-place for my security, but at the same time to assure him that no act of hostility would be attempted, unless obstruction was offered to my embarkation, in which case he must consider himself responsible for any consequences that might ensue. An answer was received which still evaded the question at issue, but attempting to throw the responsibility upon me should any unpleasant consequences be the result, and stating he could not allow armed men to land.

On the morning of the 25th, when the boats were advancing from the "Wellesley," Captain Hennell, at my request, again sent to the Governor, to assure him that it was not intended to land any armed men from those boats, if I were permitted to embark without molestation, to which a verbal reply was conveyed by an officer from the Governor, who stated that there was no intention on his part of preventing me from going off from the Residency, and that the whole affair was a mistake arising from the Governor's not having understood what I had said: this however was not the case, as was fully proved by his stationing the guards above mentioned, as well as by what afterwards occurred; further, the Honorable Company's Moonshee heard all that passed, and can vouch for my words being faithfully conveyed to the Governor by Dr. Mc Kenzie.

As the "Wellesley's" boats were advancing, Captain Maitland in a six-oared gig preceded them at the distance of about half a mile, and on his nearing the shore, I went down to the landing-place, accompanied by Commodore Brucks, and several of the officers of the "Wellesley," to give directions for the armed boats not to land without orders, when a man armed with a musket and bayonet detached himself from the guards in the old tower on the left, and came to the spot the boats were approaching. He called out two or three times some words which I did not then understand, but which I have since been informed were to direct the boats not to land there, and as Captain Maitland stepped out of his gig on the beach, the man spoke again, and I am told said, "I now give you fair warning that if you land I will fire at you," and at the same moment was in the act of lifting his musket to his shoulder to carry his threat into execution, when he was seized from behind, and his musket wrested out of his hands by the English officers present.

The mob who were standing around immediately took up stones, which they threw with great violence at the officers, and at the same moment a fire of musquetry was opened on the boats and the British officers and seamen who were on shore, from both the guards on the right and left, and as several of these shot struck the boats, and even went through the accoutrements of a sergeant and private of marines, two or three guns and several muskets were fired from the boats in return, before I could put a stop to it, and I was for a short time under apprehension that a serious affray would have ensued; but having stopped the firing from the boats and driven the mob off the ground in front of the Residency, Captain Hennell prevailed upon one of the Cazee's officers,

who arrived about this time, to send orders to the two guards to desist from firing; when tranquillity was again restored, and there being no further molestation offered, I embarked and proceeded on board the "Wellesley," leaving, at Captain Hennell's request, thirty marines under the command of Captain Ellis, as a re-inforcement for the protection of the Residency.

Before I left the Residency I begged Captain Hennell would not suffer anything that had passed between the Governor and myself, to influence him in his future movements, as I considered that I had completely wiped off the insult intended towards me by the manner in which it had been repelled; but as he (the Governor) would not immediately agree to certain stipulations proposed by the Resident, he resolved to quit Bushire and proceed to the island of Karrak.

I regretted much that the folly and obstinacy of Meerza Assad, the Governor of Bushire, should have forced me to adopt the strong measure of ordering in the armed boats of the "Wellesley," but had I yielded the question and embarked at the custom-house stairs, instead of maintaining the right of Her Britannic Majesty's subjects to communicate directly with the British Resident in the manner in which they had been accustomed to do ever since the Residency was fixed in its present site, I should have established a precedent that would have been attended with great inconvenience as well as danger to all Her Majesty's subjects, either connected with the Residency, or having business to transact there, and have compromised the dignity of the national flag by encouraging the Governor to further aggressions, under the impression that we dared not resent any insult he might choose to offer us.

During the 25th and 26th instant, the boats of the "Wellesley," as well as those of the Honorable Company, were employed to bring off the luggage of the Resident and those attached to his suite. On the 27th a strong north-west wind came on and lasted during the 28th, which obstructed our operations, and prevented the Resident from embarking. Early on the morning of the 28th, Captain Hennell informed me by letter, that Meerza Assad was desirous of sending off a deputation to offer any sort of apology, or to make any concession I might think proper to demand, on account, as he said, of the accidental insult offered to me. Though as far as I was concerned, I considered I had sufficiently redressed myself, yet thinking it desirable that I should receive the deputation, for the purpose of showing that the Governor was aware of the impropriety of his conduct, and that the British flag would not be insulted with impunity, I requested Captain Hennell to intimate to Meerza Assad that I would have great pleasure in receiving the deputation, and in treating the persons of which it was composed with every respect.

On the arrival of the deputation on board, I found that they had neither written authority from the Governor to make an apology, nor power to agree to settle the question from which the whole misunderstanding had arisen; namely, our communicating with the Residency by the landing-place in front of it, instead of going to the custom-house, which is at the distance of a mile from the Residency, and by which mode of communication we should have to pass on all occasions through the town; and all that I could obtain from the deputation, was a promise to deliver a written apology, dictated by myself (as advised by Captain Hennell) to the Governor for his signature, which document, although prepared accordingly and explained to the deputation, and sent to the Residency to be translated, was not transmitted to the Governor, as, whilst the deputation were on board the "Wellesley," the posture of affairs in the town became so very threatening, and the Governor, by causing the site of a tower to be marked out, which, when built, would command the landing-place, and cut off all direct communication between the Residency and the shipping, had shown himself so decidedly hostile and averse to conciliation, that Captain Hennell resolved immediately to embark, and early on the morning of the 29th, the armed boats of the ships present received him, and all connected with the Residency, and conveyed them to the "Wellesley," which ship immediately weighed and anchored at Karrak this morning.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

*Sir Frederick Maitland to Charles Wood, Esq.**"Wellesley," at Karrak,
Persian Gulf, April 7, 1839.*

(Extract.)

WITH reference to my letter of the 1st instant, I have now to communicate for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that Captain Hennell, the Honorable Company's Resident in the Persian Gulf, has, in the course of the two last days, received letters from Feridoon Meerza Firman Firma, or Regent of Fars, and Governor of Shiraz, dated Moharrem or March, and from the British Agent there, and from Bakir Khan, the Chief of Tungestan;—that from His Royal Highness being written evidently under the influence of a misrepresentation from the Governor of Bushire, that the differences which have arisen were caused by an attempt on our part to introduce troops into the Residency, and not, as was really the case, from a determination on his side to deprive the Resident of a privilege he had so long enjoyed, and which was absolutely necessary for his comfort, and even safety, and by his attempting to carry into execution that new regulation for the first time in the most insulting manner, by notifying verbally to me that I should not be allowed to embark from the Residency landing, without his having intimated in any way to the Resident his intention of cutting off the direct communication with the shipping; and apparently, from his not being aware that the few marines who were placed in the Residency were put there for the protection of the Resident's person, in consequence of the military display made by the Governor, and his having ordered into the town a large body of Tungestan troops.

His Royal Highness intimates that he had received information from the Governor of Bushire, that the Commander of a British man-of-war lately arrived, had asked to be allowed to land a number of men, and remain in the Residency; and observes, that this was contrary to existing usages, and therefore, knowing the desire of the Resident to maintain the friendly relations subsisting between the two Governments, His Royal Highness had considered it necessary to request a full explanation for the information of the Shah; that if the object were merely that of travelling, there could be no necessity for bringing a number of people, as every kindness and protection had ever been exhibited by the Persian Government towards English travellers; and His Royal Highness concludes by again expressing his desire for a full explanation, intimating that until this be received, the permission asked cannot be given; and trusts that the Resident will consider any attempt to act before the receipt of the Royal orders as an infringement of the friendship so long existing between the two Governments.

The letter from Bakir Khan, the Chief of Tungestan, intimates the receipt of a rukum, or letter, from the Prince of Shiraz, enjoining him to do all in his power to prevent a collision between the two States; gives him authority to adjust any cause of misunderstanding existing between the Governor and the Resident; and concludes by expressing the earnest desire of His Royal Highness, that any unpleasant impressions remaining in the mind of the Admiral should be removed.

In the letter from the Agent, however, it appears that the Prince has already ordered two battalions of Serbaz or regular infantry, and five or ten guns, (for he uses both numbers in the course of his letter,) to march forthwith for Bushire, as a garrison for that place; and as the same person communicates the intelligence that the Persian army, consisting of 40,000 men under the command of Karaman Meerza, brother of the Shah, was to leave Tehran on its march against Herat on the 5th of this month, there can be no doubt that the Governor of Bushire has in the late affair acted upon the same general orders from the Government, to render the Resident's position as irksome as possible, that appeared to me to be in force on my arrival; and that his conduct towards the Resident and myself on the 24th and 25th ultimo was merely one of a series of annoying and insulting measures adopted to carry these instructions into effect.

The Agent at Shiraz further informs Captain Hennell, that Mahomed Shah does not accompany the army, but is about to leave Tehran on an excursion to visit Ispahan and other places in his dominions.

Captain Hennell being desirous of having his reports on the present state of Persia forwarded to Bombay with as little delay as possible, and the services of the ships of the Indian navy being required in the Persian Gulf, I mean to dispatch Her Majesty's brig "Algerine" to that Presidency for the purpose of conveying them thither; and I shall myself return to Bombay in a few days, probably visiting one or two of the Arab Chiefs in my way down the Gulf.

Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

Sir Frederick Maitland to Charles Wood, Esq.

"Wellesley," at Karrak,
April 15, 1839.

(Extract.)

IN continuation of my letter of the 7th instant, I have to state for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that on the 10th of this month Captain Hennell received letters from the Governor of Bushire as well as from the Cazee and Bakir Khan, all expressing a strong desire to accommodate the differences that have taken place between him and the Governor, and offering to place every thing on the same footing as they were previous to the late misunderstanding. He also received a letter from Mahomed Hassan Khan Sirdar, an officer of some rank, who had been directed by the Firman Firma, or Regent of Fars, to proceed to Bushire for the purpose of enquiring into, and settling any subject of dispute which may exist between the Resident and the Governor.

Under these circumstances I was induced to delay my departure till the arrival of the above-named officer.

Yesterday afternoon Captain Hennell received another communication from Mahomed Hassan Khan, announcing his arrival at Bushire, and requesting him to proceed to that place in order that they may have direct communication with each other; also informing him that he has a letter from Firman Firma the Prince. It is, therefore, my intention to receive the Resident on board the "Wellesley," and proceed with him to Bushire, from whence, after an interview has taken place, I shall, as stated in my former letter, return to Bombay, calling at Bahrein and one or two other points on my way.

As the mail for England by the route of Bagdad and Beyrout will be made up this afternoon, it will not be in my power to report the result of the meeting between Mahomed Hassan Khan and Captain Hennell: as far as the latter is concerned, it appears to me there would be little difficulty in accommodating the disputes, by putting him in the same condition in which all British Residents have always been placed, and as he stood before the present Governor commenced his series of insulting annoyances; but it is very questionable how far he can with propriety resume his official duties at Bushire, during the uncertainty that exists of the Shah's intentions towards Herat, the siege of which could only be renewed under the influence of hostile feelings towards the British interests.

No. 9.

John Backhouse, Esq., to Charles Wood, Esq.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 22, 1839.

I HAVE laid before Viscount Palmerston your letter of the 18th of June, inclosing copies of despatches from Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Maitland, reporting his proceedings in the Persian Gulf, and the particulars of a dispute in which he has been engaged with the Persian authorities at Bushire.

In reply to your observation that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty presume that they are to approve of Sir Frederick Maitland's conduct, I am directed to request that you will acquaint their Lordships, that Lord Palmerston entirely concurs in the view which they have taken of that officer's proceedings.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

No. 10.

*Viscount Palmerston to Sir Frederick Lamb and to Earl Granville.*Sir,
My Lord,*Foreign Office, March 20, 1838.*

BY intelligence recently received from Her Majesty's Envoy at the Court of Persia, it appears that certain Persian authorities, acting, there is too much reason to suppose, under the immediate orders of the Shah, intercepted one of the messengers of the British Mission on his return from Herat to Tehran; and having brought him back by force to the royal camp, took from him his despatches and otherwise maltreated him.

For so outrageous a violation of the law of nations, Her Majesty's Minister in Persia has demanded redress; and it will depend upon the course which the Shah may take in this matter whether Her Majesty's Minister will remain in Persia or not.

Meanwhile Her Majesty's Government have been apprized that Hoossein Khan, who was some time ago appointed by the Court of Persia to proceed to England as Ambassador from the Shah, to congratulate Her Majesty on Her accession to the throne, has actually set out, and has probably by this time made considerable progress on his journey.

Her Majesty's Government fully concurring in the view taken by Mr. McNeill of the unjustifiable conduct of the Persian authorities, have entirely approved of the course which Mr. McNeill has adopted in this transaction; and under these circumstances it is obvious that the Queen cannot receive at Her Majesty's Court any Ambassador from the Shah, neither can Her Majesty's Secretary of State hold any communication with such Ambassador on any matter of business whatever, until information shall have been received that the Shah has made full reparation for the outrage committed upon the British messenger.

I have, therefore, to instruct your Excellency to take measures for obtaining early intelligence of the arrival of Hoossein Khan at ^{Paris}~~Vienna~~; and upon being informed of his arrival, you will immediately apprise him of the determination of Her Majesty's Government not to receive him, nor to hold any communication with him under existing circumstances; and you will point out to him the mortifying position in which he would be placed, if, instead of waiting where he is, to learn the result of this affair in Persia, he should persist, notwithstanding this intimation, in continuing his journey to England.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 11.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 31, 1838.

YOUR Excellency was apprized by the inclosure in my despatch to Her Majesty's Envoy in Persia of the 20th of March, which was left open for your perusal, that Her Majesty's Government had determined for the reasons therein stated not to receive Hoossein Khan, who had been appointed to proceed to England as Ambassador from the Shah of Persia to congratulate the Queen on Her Majesty's accession to the throne.

It appears by a despatch from Mr. Bonham, that Hoossein Khan, who had from various causes deferred his departure from Tabreez, had announced his intention to set out for England on the 14th of July.

The intelligence recently received from Persia has of course confirmed Her Majesty's Government in their determination not to receive Hoossein Khan as Ambassador from the Shah; nor to hold any communication with him.

Your Excellency will accordingly state to Hoossein Khan, if he should be at Constantinople when you receive this despatch, that it is useless for him to undertake the long journey to this country, which will only expose him to mortification.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 12.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 10.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, November 8, 1838.

I HAVE the honor to inclose copies of a correspondence which has passed between the Persian Ambassador at this Court and myself on the subject of the supposed journey to London of the fugitive Persian Princes now resident in this capital, and of the Ambassador going to London.

Hoossein Khan arrived here the day before yesterday, by the "Trebizond" steam-vessel.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

Meerza Giaffer Khan to Viscount Ponsonby.

(Extrait.)

Arnaout Kioy, le 31 Octobre, 1838.

IL me parvient que les Princes Persans réfugiés depuis quelques mois en cette capitale doivent se rendre à Londres par votre moyen. Votre Excellence sait qu'avant leur arrivée lorsque je lui ai demandé conseil touchant cette affaire, elle m'a répondu de demeurer neutre en cette occasion, étant dépourvu d'instruction de son Gouvernement.

L'amitié désintéressée qui existe entre votre Gouvernement et le nôtre est maintenant aussi solide qu'auparavant, malgré le malentendu qui a été élevé entre notre Gouvernement et M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre résidant en Perse, et qui grâce à Dieu a été bientôt terminé, et Sa Majesté le Shah a quitté le siège de Hérat et ses dépendances, et un Ambassadeur de la Cour de Perse doit se rendre à Londres. Cela étant il n'est pas juste que votre Excellence consente que ces Princes fugitifs aillent à Londres, car cela serait contraire à l'amitié que les deux Gouvernemens tâchent de consolider de plus en plus entre eux.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

Arnaout Kioy, October 31, 1838.

I HAVE learnt that the Persian Princes who have for some months been residing as refugees in this capital, are about to proceed to London by your assistance. Your Excellency is aware that before their arrival, when I requested your advice touching this matter, you answered, that being without instructions from your Government, you must remain neuter on this occasion.

The disinterested friendship which exists between your Government and mine, is now as firm as heretofore, notwithstanding the misunderstanding which had arisen between my Government and the Ambassador of England residing in Persia, and which, thanks to God, has soon been brought to an end, and His Majesty the Shah has left the siege of Herat and its dependencies, and an Ambassador of the Court of Persia is about to proceed to London. Such being the case, it is not right that your Excellency should consent that these fugitive Princes should go to London, for that would be contrary to the friendship which the two Governments endeavour more and more to consolidate between them.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Viscount Ponsonby to Meerza Giaffer Khan.

(Extract.)

Therapia, November 1, 1838.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated October 31, 1838, and I hasten to answer it and to assure your Excellency that you are misinformed and under a complete error with regard to the Persian Princes, and that it is not true that Their Royal Highnesses are going, or to go, to London with or without my consent.

It is very true, as your Excellency states, that His Majesty the Shah of Persia has raised the siege of Herat, and is advanced on his march towards Tehran, and that His Majesty has so acted at the demand of the British Government, and I am very certain that the Persian Government will without delay give that satisfaction which it owes to the British Government for the breach of the law of nations committed by some of the high Persian officers in their maltreatment of a messenger belonging to the British Mission. But it is my duty to make known by order of my Government to your Excellency, that whilst things were in the situation in which they lately stood, Her Majesty's Government had resolved to decline to receive at the British Court the Ambassador from the Court of Persia, and that I have been charged to make this communication in order to spare the Ambassador the trouble of a journey, the object of which could not be accomplished; and I take this occasion, which is the proper one, to request your Excellency to take such steps as your wisdom shall direct.

I do indulge the hope that all differences between the British and Persian Governments will be put an end to, and that the close and advantageous relations of friendship between them will be restored, and nobody will see with greater pleasure than I shall do, the accomplishment of that happy settlement.

It gives me great satisfaction to have this opportunity for assuring your Excellency of my high consideration.

Inclosure 3 in No. 12.

Meerza Giaffer Khan to Viscount Ponsonby.—(Literal Copy.)

(Extract.)

Arnaout Kioy, November 6, 1838.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your kind answer to my letter.

Your Excellency's instruction about our Ambassadors by the English Government must have been long before that time, because, if Persian Government had the smallest idea of the cool reception of their Ambassador in London, they would never have sent him, and his Excellency Mr. Mc Neill ought to give some hint on the subject; my Government are perfectly sure of their real advantageous relation of friendship towards England.

Your Excellency says that I must take a proper steps on the subject as my wisdom directs me. I am quite at a loss that what steps I can take to approximate your Lordship's intention. Our Ambassador already is at Constantinople, and in his way to London, and, moreover, our Government believes that the disinterested friendship is still existing between the two Governments without the least alteration. I shall be very much obliged to your Excellency, if your Excellency will explain the way of steps which I ought to take.

Inclosure 4 in No. 12.

Viscount Ponsonby to Meerza Giaffer Khan.

(Extract.)

Therapia, November 8, 1838.

I HAVE this moment had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter dated November 6th.

The instructions from my Government are positive as to the Persian Ambassador, and it is my duty to make the communication I had the honor to make to your Excellency. I hope that all differences between the Governments of our respective countries, may be settled to the advantage of both. I am very sure it is the interest of both to be on the most friendly terms one with the other. It is however known to your Excellency, that by the last advices from Persia it appears that the Persian Government had not yet given

satisfaction for the outrage committed against the British Mission, by the arrest and ill-treatment of one of the messengers employed in the British service, and your Excellency must be aware, that the British Government will not permit any man, however high placed he may be in authority or favor with any monarch, to trifle with impunity with the rights of the British Legation, and the law of nations. I presume the matter will be speedily arranged as it ought to be, and when that shall be done, I presume the British Government will be rejoiced to have the ancient cordiality restored between Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, and His Majesty the Shah of Persia, and that his Excellency the Persian Ambassador will be welcomed with joy in England.

No. 13.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 31.)

My Lord,

Therapia, December 7, 1838.

HOOSSEIN KHAN, the Persian Ambassador, having again applied to me on the subject of his journey to England, I told him that I had learnt from Mr. McNeill that he had heard and believed proper satisfaction had been given by the Shah for the disrespect shown to the British Mission in the affair of the messenger; that as his Excellency Hoossein Khan knew also and said that the affair had been satisfactorily settled, I was ready to state that I did not suppose any impediment continued to exist in the way of his visit to England.

His Excellency has, I hear, left this for Vienna.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 14.

Mr. Milbanke to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 1, 1839.)

My Lord,

Vienna, December 22, 1838.

I UNDERSTAND that the Persian Ambassador is shortly expected to arrive here on his way to London, and I have therefore the honor to request that your Lordship will be pleased to inform me whether I am to consider the instructions conveyed to Sir Frederick Lamb in your Lordship's despatch of the 20th of March as still being in force, or whether recent events have removed the objections therein referred to.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. R. MILBANKE.

No. 15.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Milbanke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 8, 1839.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 22nd of December, relative to the expected arrival at Vienna of Hoossein Khan, I have to acquaint you that nothing has yet come to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Government which can lead to a revocation of the instruction contained in my despatch to Sir F. Lamb of the 20th of March last; as Her Majesty's Government have not yet had any official or certain account that satisfaction has been given by the Persian Government to Great Britain for the outrage committed on the British messenger by certain Persian authorities in October, 1837.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 16.

Mr. Milbanke to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 6.)

(Extract.)

Vienna, January 26, 1839.

HOOSEIN KHAN arrived at Trieste on the 19th instant, and is expected to reach Vienna at the beginning of next month, when I shall not fail to act in the sense prescribed to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 8th of January, with respect to the prosecution of his journey to England.

No. 17.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Milbanke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 8, 1839.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 26th ultimo, reporting the arrival at Trieste of Hoossein Khan, and his expected arrival at Vienna, I have to desire that you will inform that Ambassador that as there seems reason to believe that the British Mission in Persia has been compelled to retire from that country in consequence of the refusal of the Shah to carry into execution the promise which he had made that he would accede to all the demands of Her Majesty's Government, he, Hoossein Khan, cannot, in the present state of things, be received at the British Court, nor can Her Majesty's Government hold any communication whatever with him. Therefore if Hoossein Khan should persist in continuing his journey to England, he will, on his arrival here, receive no mark of respect whatever, but will be left wholly unnoticed by the Government, like any other foreigner who may come to England in his private and individual capacity.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 18.

Mr. Milbanke to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 3.)

(Extract.)

Vienna, February 17, 1839.

HOOSEIN KHAN reached this capital a few days ago, on his way to Paris; and on the morning following his arrival, I sought an interview with him for the purpose of communicating to him your Lordship's instructions, with respect to the prosecution of his journey to England.

I found Hoossein Khan, although but imperfectly acquainted with the English language, sufficiently master of it to convey his meaning; and we were, therefore, able to converse without the assistance of his interpreter.

I stated to Hoossein Khan the object of my visit, in the words of your Lordship's despatch to Sir Frederick Lamb, of March 20 of last year, to the effect that in the present state of the political relations between the two countries, he could not be received in England in the capacity of Persian Ambassador, and that his proceeding thither would only, in all probability, expose him to mortification and neglect.

Hoossein Khan did not at first at all seem to enter into the views entertained by Her Majesty's Government on this point, and replied, that having been invested with the character of Ambassador by the Shah, his master, it was his duty to fulfil his mission, and to London he would go, whatever might be the consequences: however, after explaining to him a little more at length the position in which he would place himself by persisting in such a line of conduct, he became more reasonable, and said that he wished to have some conversation with me on the subject of the affairs of Persia, in the hopes that the eyes of Her

Majesty's Government might be opened to the real state of the question at present at issue between the two Governments. He then desired all his attendants to quit the room, and as soon as we were alone, commenced by stating to me frankly and openly, that the principal object of his embassy to England was to endeavour to obtain the recall of Mr. McNeill from the post which he now holds at the Court of Persia.

Hoossein Khan said, that he had a long list of grievances against Mr. McNeill in the Shah's own writing, which he was instructed to lay before the Queen and Her Majesty's Government; and to state, that there was but little chance of re-establishing any cordiality between the two countries so long as that Minister was allowed to remain at the Shah's Court.

Having prefaced thus much, Hoossein Khan went on to give to me the Persian version of the affair of Mr. McNeill's courier, which, he said, had been misrepresented to Her Majesty's Government. He explained it to have arisen in the following manner:—

In consequence of certain events known to your Lordship, Mr. McNeill had expressed a wish to the Shah to be allowed to send a courier, charged with some communication to the ruler of Herat, as far as Meshed, where he was to have been met by a courier from Kamran, to whom he was to deliver the letters of which he was the bearer. Permission to this effect was granted by the Shah, and the courier set out on his journey, having, however, received from Mr. McNeill secret instructions not to stop at Meshed, but to proceed straight to Herat, and return himself with the answer. This is asserted to have taken place without the knowledge of the Shah. Mr. McNeill's courier succeeded in reaching Herat in safety, and was on his way back to Meshed, accompanied by a servant of Kamran's, when one evening after dusk they encountered the outposts of a division of the Persian army, commanded, I think Hoossein Khan said, by a Polish officer, and having received the customary challenge, instead of answering it, they both galloped off, and were pursued and fired at by some Persian cavalry despatched after them. However, through the superiority of their horses, they succeeded in escaping; but, on the following day, again presented themselves under the disguise of horse-dealers, and offered their horses for sale to the commander of the division. He not wishing to purchase more than one, but desirous not to lose an opportunity of obtaining valuable animals, detained the two individuals until he had communicated with Hajee Khan, by whom they were sent for to show their horses. On their way to his tent, Mr. McNeill's courier was accidentally recognised by some one, who immediately announced the fact, and this led to an inquiry how he came there, and what was his errand; in the course of which it came out that the other man was in the service of Kamran, and his presence in the Persian camp having naturally inspired some distrust as to his intentions, he narrowly escaped being put to death on the spot as a spy. Mr. McNeill's courier was examined, and his despatches taken from him, together with some letters which were found concealed in the soles of his boots; but when it was satisfactorily explained that he was actually employed on the service of Her Majesty's Minister, they were returned to him unopened, and he was admonished to continue his journey.

It will be unnecessary for me to recapitulate all the subsequent complications to which this circumstance has given rise, and into which Hoossein Khan entered at considerable length.

Hoossein Khan then went on to assure me with much earnestness of the friendly dispositions of the Shah, and his desire to see matters replaced upon that footing upon which, he said, they had subsisted for several centuries between the two countries. He spoke at some length, upon the reasons for which Great Britain ought to desire to see the power of Persia strengthened and consolidated sufficiently to enable her to assume an independent position in the East, and he said, that the public feeling in Persia was almost universal, that the friendship of Great Britain was essential to the very existence of the monarchy.

I then observed to him, that, entertaining these opinions, it appeared to me most extraordinary that the Shah should act in a manner which tended rather to alienate Great Britain from Persia, than to secure her support and protection in case of necessity.

Hoossein Khan interrupted me, by once more earnestly assuring me, that his country was desirous of being on terms of the closest amity with England. Treaties, he said, subsist between us; let us act up to them frankly and honor-

ably. Tell us what you desire, and I will engage that your demands shall be complied with on the instant; but let them be conveyed through some other channel than Mr. McNeill.

On the morning following my interview with Hoossein Khan, I received a visit from an English gentleman, named Williamson, acting as his physician, who informed me, that he had been sent by Hoossein Khan, who, entertaining some apprehension that he might not have expressed himself clearly to me on the previous day, had entrusted him to repeat his explanations, and to give me such further information as might serve to elucidate the false reports, which he persists in asserting to have been made respecting the events above alluded to.

I told Mr. Williamson distinctly, and requested him to explain to Hoossein Khan, that I had made my communication to him by order of my Government, and that no latitude whatever was allowed to me to modify my instructions in any way; but that, as far as my private opinion went, I did not conceive that Her Majesty's Government would ever consent to receive him until the relations between the two Countries had been replaced upon their former footing, and that I need not tell him that this could only be effected by a speedy and thorough compliance on the part of the Shah with the demands made by Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran. Mr. Williamson then asked if I could hold out no hopes that Mr. McNeill would be removed from his present situation, as he said, "even that" "would at once remove every difficulty, and all you ask would instantly be" "granted; whilst, without some assurance of this nature, I despair of the Shah's" "being brought to reason." To this I replied—"None whatever."

Mr. Williamson then left me to give an account to Hoossein Khan of what had passed between us, saying that they were in daily expectation of receiving advices from Persia, and that if anything of importance arrived, he would not fail to make me acquainted with it.

I have since spoken with Prince Metternich relative to the object of the Mission of Hoossein Khan. Prince Metternich gave me an account of his conversation with him, which agreed in most particulars with that which I have above related to your Lordship, and told me that he had given him the advice which he always gave, wherever disagreements subsisted between Governments, mutually to seek for explanations; and if I am not mistaken, His Highness has expressed his readiness to become the channel of explanation in the present instance.

Hoossein Khan, although the bearer of a letter from the Shah to the Emperor of Austria, is not regarded in the light of an Ambassador to this Court, but meets with the attention usually bestowed upon foreign Ambassadors passing through this capital.

He had the honor of an audience of the Emperor this morning to deliver the letter of which he was the bearer from the Shah.

No. 19.

Mr. Milbanke to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 3.)

(Extract.)

Vienna, February 22, 1839.

I HAVE just been informed by a person in Hoossein's Khan's suite, that he has drawn up a paper with a view to its being conveyed to Her Majesty's Government, containing a statement of facts, which corresponds with that which he made to me verbally, and which forms the subject of my despatch of the 17th instant.

No. 20.

Mr. Milbanke to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 6.)

(Extract.)

Vienna, February 25, 1839.

PRINCE METTERNICH having communicated to me the substance of the despatch, which he has addressed to M. de Hummelauer, reporting Hoossein Khan's conversations with him on the affairs of Persia, I think it right to observe, that Hoossein Khan never told me explicitly that he was authorized to offer the fullest apologies to Her Majesty's Government on the matter of the courier, but confined himself to saying that he was invested with extraordinary powers, though he seemed unwilling to state to me their precise import.

No. 21.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Milbanke.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 8, 1839.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 17th ultimo, reporting the conversation which you had with Hoossein Khan, I have to instruct you to inform that Envoy that you have faithfully reported to Her Majesty's Government all that he told you, but that Her Majesty's Government have not seen therein any reason whatever for departing from the decision which has already been communicated to Hoossein Khan; and that Her Majesty's Government are still determined not to receive him until the Shah shall have complied with all the demands which have been made by Mr. McNeill on the part of the British Government.

You will also inform Hoossein Khan, that his account of the violence used towards the messenger of the British Mission, is in almost all respects at variance with the reports of that transaction which have been officially received by Her Majesty's Government; and that those reports, having been transmitted at the time when the event happened, and having been drawn up by the messenger himself and by persons who were present, and who with their own eyes witnessed what occurred, Her Majesty's Government must place entire confidence in the correctness of those reports.

With respect to the application which Hoossein Khan is instructed to make for the recall of Mr. McNeill, you will say, that upon a full consideration of all the circumstances connected with the existing differences between Great Britain and Persia, Her Majesty's Government is of opinion that this application only affords an additional proof, if any were wanted, that Mr. McNeill has faithfully and ably performed his duty towards his Sovereign and his country.

You will decline to hold any further communication with Hoossein Khan, either directly or indirectly, upon any matter of public business, it being the intention of Her Majesty's Government not to carry on any discussion with the Persian Government, except through the members of Her Majesty's Mission in Persia.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 22.

M. de Hummelauer to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 7.)

(Extrait.)

Chandos House, le 6 Mars, 1839.

UN courrier arrivé dans la nuit m'a apporté la dépêche ci-jointe, qu'avec ses annexes je m'empresse de mettre entre les mains de votre Excellence.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

Chandos House, March 6, 1839.

A MESSENGER who arrived last night, brought me the inclosed despatch, which, with its inclosures, I hasten to place in your Excellency's hands.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Prince Metternich to M. de Hummelauer.

Monsieur,

Vienne, le 24 Février, 1839.

L'AMBASSADEUR du Shah de Perse, destiné pour Londres, et arrêté ici par les nouvelles qu'on lui a communiquées des difficultés qui s'opposent à son admission en Angleterre, a été reçu par l'Empereur, auquel il avait une lettre à présenter de la part de son maître. Cette lettre ne renferme que des compliments d'usage, et n'a aucune valeur politique.

Hoossein Khan, par contre, s'est expliqué envers moi avec une grande franchise sur les affaires de son pays, et en particulier sur le différend qui existe encore entre le Shah et le Gouvernement Britannique, et qu'il attribue à l'influence personnelle de Mr. McNeill. A cet égard comme à tous les autres, je puis m'en référer avec d'autant plus de confiance aux rapports que Mr. Milbanke aura adressés à Lord Palmerston, qu'après nous être confiés réciproquement ce que nous a dit Hoossein Khan, nous avons eu lieu de nous convaincre qu'il s'est expliqué vis-à-vis de nous de la même manière et dans les mêmes termes.

Voici en substance comment s'est énoncé l'Ambassadeur Persan sur l'attitude politique du Shah. Je citerai ses propres paroles.

"Le Shah est le Souverain de son Pays, et comme tel il veut être indépendant. Il y a deux Grandes Puissances avec lesquelles la Perse se trouve plus ou moins en contact direct; la Russie et la Puissance Anglaise aux Indes. La première a plus de moyens militaires que la seconde; par contre, l'Angleterre a plus d'argent que la Russie. Les deux Puissances peuvent ainsi faire à la Perse du bien et du mal; et pour éviter avant tout le mal, le Shah veut se maintenir envers elles dans des relations de bonne amitié et hors de tout conflit. Si, par contre, il se trouve menacé d'un côté, il ira chercher de l'autre les secours dont il aura besoin. Ce n'est pas là ce qu'il désire, mais ce à quoi on peut le forcer, car il n'est pas plus ami de l'une que de l'autre de ces Puissances; il désire de se maintenir avec elles sur une ligne d'amitié égale. Ce qu'il aime avant tout, c'est son indépendance et le maintien de bons rapports avec l'étranger."

N'ayant rien trouvé, pour ma part, à observer sur cette profession de foi de Hoossein Khan, j'ai cru pouvoir me permettre de lui demander, quelle était la cause du refroidissement qui paraissait régner encore entre la Grande Bretagne et la Perse? Il m'a répondu sans hésiter: "C'est à Mr. McNeill qu'il faut attribuer le mal."

Lui ayant demandé quels étaient ses projets de voyage, il me dit, qu'il comptait ne point se laisser arrêter par les difficultés que sa réception rencontrerait à Londres. "J'y porte toutes les explications nécessaires; il est dès lors de mon devoir de m'y rendre."

Sur l'observation que je lui fis, qu'en se décidant pour ce parti, il s'exposerait peut-être à ce que, s'il n'était point reçu à Londres, cette circonstance serait interprétée par le public Européen comme une rupture entre les deux Cours,—il me répondit, après avoir réfléchi quelques instans, qu'il trouvait mon observation juste. "J'écirai et j'attendrai ici une réponse."

L'Ambassadeur m'ayant demandé de quels moyens il pourrait disposer pour faire passer au Cabinet Britannique ce qu'il désirait lui faire connaître, je lui observai, qu'à cet effet il pourrait disposer de Mr. Milbanke ou de ma personne. Il me prie alors de me charger de la transmission de sa missive. "Je craindrais," ajouta-t-il, "de mettre l'Envoyé Anglais dans une position gênée."

J'ai accepté en conséquence la commission de l'Ambassadeur, en prenant acte vis-à-vis de lui, qu'en m'en chargeant, je me bornerais à transmettre pure-

ment et simplement son travail à sa destination. Vous trouvez dans l'annexe la missive en question, qu'il m'a remise en langue Persanne, et avec une traduction Anglaise avouée par lui, car il parle et écrit l'Anglais. Veuillez, Monsieur, remettre les annexes à Lord Palmerston et donner également connaissance à sa Seigneurie de la présente dépêche.

Hoossein Khan me fait l'impression d'un homme doué d'une large dose d'esprit et d'une connaissance particulière des positions Européennes. Il s'énonce très-bien, et s'il avait passé plusieurs années au milieu de la civilisation Chrétienne, il ne pourrait guères être mieux qu'il est. J'ai mis du soin à vous rendre avec exactitude les paroles mêmes qu'il m'a adressées, et qui sont remarquables par une précision qui n'est guères Orientale.

N'ayant point une mission particulière pour m'avancer sur un terrain qui n'intéresse notre Empire que sous le point-de-vue de la politique générale, toujours empressé cependant de servir la cause de la paix entre les Puissances, je serai prêt à remettre à l'Ambassadeur Persan tout ce que le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat croira devoir me transmettre pour lui.

Recévez, &c.,

(Signé) METTERNICH.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Vienna, February 24, 1839.

THE Ambassador of the Shah of Persia, on his way to London, and detained here by the accounts which have been communicated to him, of the difficulties which are opposed to his admission into England, has been received by the Emperor, to whom he had a letter to present on the part of his master. That letter contains nothing but the usual compliments, and has no political importance.

Hoossein Khan, on the contrary, has expressed himself to me with great frankness upon the affairs of his country, and particularly upon the difference which still subsists between the Shah and the British Government, and which he attributes to the personal influence of Mr. McNeill. In this as in all other respects, I can refer with so much the more confidence to the reports which Mr. Milbanke will have addressed to Lord Palmerston, as after having imparted to each other what Hoossein Khan had said to us, we have had reason to be satisfied that he expressed himself to us in the same manner and in the same terms.

This is, in substance, the manner in which the Persian Ambassador expressed himself on the political attitude of the Shah. I quote his own words.

"The Shah is sovereign of his country, and as such he desires to be independent. There are two great Powers with whom Persia is in more or less direct contact: Russia, and the English power in India. The first has more military means than the second; on the other hand, England has more money than Russia. The two Powers can thus do Persia good and evil; and in order above all to avoid the evil, the Shah is desirous of keeping himself with respect to them, within the relations of good friendship, and free from all contestation. If, on the contrary, he finds himself threatened on one side, he will betake himself to the other in search of the support which he shall stand in need of. That is not what he desires, but to what he may be driven, for he is not more the friend of one, than of the other of those Powers; he desires to be with them on a footing of equal friendship. What he cherishes above all is his independence, and the maintenance of good relations with Foreign Powers."

Having, for my part, found no observation to make on this profession of faith by Hoossein Khan, I thought I might allow myself to ask him what was the cause of the coolness which appeared still to subsist between Great Britain and Persia. He answered me without hesitation, "that the evil must be attributed to Mr. McNeill."

Having asked him what plans he had for his journey, he told me that he proposed not to allow himself to be stopped by the difficulties which his reception might meet with in London. "I am the bearer of all necessary explanations, it is therefore my duty to proceed there."

On my observing to him that by deciding upon this course, he perhaps ran

the risk, if he were not received in London, of that circumstance being construed by the European public as a rupture between the two Courts, he replied, after a few moments' reflection, that he considered my remark true, "I will write, and wait here for an answer."

The Ambassador having asked me what means he could have of forwarding to the British Cabinet what he desired to impart to it, I observed that for that purpose he might make use of Mr. Milbanke or myself. He then asked me to undertake the transmission of his communication. "I should fear," he added, "to place the English Envoy in an embarrassing position."

I, in consequence, undertook the commission of the Ambassador, stating to him at the same time, that in undertaking it, I should confine myself to merely forwarding his communication to its destination. You will find in the inclosure, the communication in question, which he delivered to me in the Persian language, and with an English translation, admitted by him to be correct, for he speaks and writes English. Have the goodness, Sir, to deliver the inclosures to Lord Palmerston, and likewise to communicate to his Lordship my present despatch.

Hoossein Khan gives me the idea of a man gifted with a large measure of understanding, and an accurate knowledge of the state of affairs in Europe. He expresses himself very well, and he could scarcely be better than he is, if he had passed many years in the midst of Christian civilization. I have taken care to give you exactly the very words he addressed to me, and which are remarkable for a degree of precision which is scarcely Eastern.

Having no particular obligation to enter far upon a matter, which interests our Empire only as an affair of general policy, but being still anxious always to promote the cause of peace among other Powers, I shall be ready to deliver to the Persian Ambassador, whatever the Principal Secretary of State shall think fit to send me for him.

Receive, &c.,
(Signed) METTERNICH.

Sub-Inclosure in No. 22.

*Literal Copy of a Translation of a Memorandum written by Hoossein Khan,
Ambassador of Persia.*

Vienna, February, 1839.

I HAVE read in the news-papers, and the British Minister accredited to the Court of Vienna has told me, that his Government seemed to believe that the Court of Yran had exchanged for enmity its old friendship towards England, and that, in consequence, the latter had altered its system.

It is, therefore, necessary and important for me, (being desirous of seeing a good understanding existing between both Powers,) before going to England, to explain, in writing, the pure intentions, the uprightness of the conduct of the Shah, my august Sovereign, and to express his friendship for England, in order that she and all the other Powers may understand and see that the Shah of Yran is only anxious for maintaining a system of friendship with all the foreign Powers in general, and with England in particular, and that he has no other intentions; at the same time, it is not to be supposed that England will, after a friendship of 400 years' standing, change it into hostility for two motives of little import. The coolness now existing between the two Courts, arises out of the erroneous ideas of the British Envoy Mr. McNeill. Both those motives have been represented by him to his Court under a very false light. It is my task to refute them: the one relates to the arrestation of the messenger, the other to the expedition of the Shah against Herat.

The fact of the arrestation of the messenger is the following.

When the Shah of Yran undertook the expedition against Herat, the Governor of that country, Meerza Kiamran, sent to the Shah an individual charged with the commission to make excuses for his irregular conduct, to express his repentance; the Court of Yran having more than once been the dupe of his (the Governor's) fallacious promises,—he being a man who does not

observe the Treaties,—this individual was not received. He asked for permission of returning to Kiamran, and it is then that Mr. Mc Neill represented to the Shah, that the Envoy of Kiamran had some fear of undertaking the journey back, and asked for leave to have him accompanied half way by one of his guards; the Shah not only gave that permission, although the person of an Envoy is safe against every insult; but His Highness took upon himself the duty to send him back with one of his own guards, ordering that those two men should accompany him to Meschhed, which is half way to his country.

After the Envoy had reached Meschhed, the guard of the Schah returned, and it was told that the guard of Mr. Mc Neill had equally returned; but the latter had written a secret letter to Kiamran, having given order to his man not to return from Meschhed, before he had gone to Herat, before having received Kiamran's answer, which he was to bring him back secretly.

The troops of Yran having arrived on the territory of Herat, patrols were established as is usual among all the armies.

One of the patrols met one night two men on horseback, in the Affghanistan dress; they were asked from whence they came, and what they were looking for? Those two men gave no answer and rode away with haste; the patrol followed them, but riding unquiet and fiery horses, they could not reach them; several shots were sent after them, but they escaped unhurt.

The Shah seeing that event related the day after in the report, gave order to the Commander of the outposts, Hagi Khan, to try to catch those two men, and reproving him for having let him escape.

Hagi Chan succeeded in his researches; a Pole named Prusky, in the service of the Shah, saw the two men amongst the troops, and asked them whence they were coming from. They answered that they were subjects of the neighbouring villages of Yran, and that they wished to sell their horses to some of the soldiers. Hagi Khan went to look at the horses and recognized Mr. Mc Neill's man, whom he had seen at Yran; he said to him, "You have not told us the truth, you do not belong to the inhabitants of those villages, you are in Mr. Mc Neill's service." Seeing he was discovered he confessed everything, and that his companion was his brother, and in the service of Mirza Kiamran.

Hagi Khan arrested them both, went to the Shah to make his report and to ask for his orders. The Shah commanded to bring them both to him and to apply to them the torture; in approaching His Highness they got frightened, and Mr. Mc Neill's man made an avowal. But the Shah would not believe that he was Mr. Mc Neill's man, until he drew out of one of his boots a paper, the same which Kiamran had written to Mr. Mc Neill, adding that he was instructed to go to Yran and to bring back to Kiamran information on the troops and the army of Yran. The Shah ordered the man of Kiamran to be imprisoned. Mr. Stoddart, Secretary of Mr. Mc Neill, was then with the army. The Shah sent for him, ordered that Mr. Mc Neill's man should be delivered to him with the sealed letters, observing that Mr. Mc Neill had committed a great fault; that the two Courts being at peace, he ought not to have sent a man to his enemy; adding that during the short time Mr. Mc Neill had been in Persia, he had been guilty of very serious faults; that he was desirous of living in peace with England, but wished that Mr. Mc Neill would be recalled.

Mr. Stoddart sent Mr. Mc Neill's messenger back to Tehran, reporting every thing which the Shah had told him. Mr. Mc Neill, after having opened and read the letter of Kiamran, sent it to the Shah, adding that it contained nothing guilty. However, fearing that the Shah might bring a complaint in England against Mr. Mc Neill, the latter took the initiative towards his own Government, and endeavoured to disculpate himself, and to throw out the odium on the Ministry of the Court of Yran.

This is the true history of the messenger falsely represented by Mr. Mc Neill, for it is impossible that the Shah of Yran would ever permit that, on account of an affair of so little import, his good relations with England should be impaired; on the contrary, he is anxious for the friendship of that Court.

The second motive relates to the expeditions of the Shah against Herat. Mr. Mc Neill has misconceived this business, and has presented under a false light to his Court the benevolent intentions of the Court of Yran. I am going, therefore, to explain the fact in a frank and sincere manner. It is notorious that the Affghanistan, and all its dependent countries, have, from old date,

always counted amongst the dependencies of Yran, that their Governors were submitted to the Shah of Yran, and that whenever disorders broke out in those countries, the Sovereigns of Yran made war against them to support their rights, and that they changed the Governors according to their will. I mean to speak of events which took place not very long ago, and will mention that, during the residence of different British Ministers in Persia, viz., Sir Henri Wollak, Sir John Kernel Macdonald, Sir John Kanel, &c., Generals have been sent to make war against Herat, viz., Issa Khan, Ismail Khan, Hussein Aly, son of Fett Aly Shah, Abbas Mirza, the hereditary Prince. When at those times war was made against Herat, our Court remained in perfect harmony with all the Powers of Europe, but then the British Envoys were animated with prudence and wisdom, and did not conceive bad opinions against the Government of Yran. Since Mr. Mc Neill's arrival, he was pleased to give another meaning to that war.

Five years back, the Shah actually reigning was named by his grandfather to take the command of an expedition against Herat: and his father, the Royal Prince of Yran, Abbas Mirza, a short time before his death, made a pact at Meschhed with Kiamran, in order that he should abstain from all vexations against the Affghanis, not invade their territory, not carry away slaves, or waylay their inhabitants, and not commit any murder. After having concluded that pact, the Sovereign of Yran came back from Herat; but soon after, Fett Aly Shah died, and Kiamran fell back into his old habits in slaying a great many people, in carrying away slaves, who he sent to Hair and Bukars to be sold, or to be exchanged against horses.

The Sovereign of Yran, Mehemed Shah, seeing that state of things, felt the necessity of delivering his subjects, and to bring to reason Kiamran. Every Sovereign must protect his subjects,—it is a sacred duty, for God has entrusted them with power in order to support the weak. The arrestation of a messenger inhabitant and subject of Yran, during two hours in the guard house, cannot be the object of a war; and how can the Sovereign of Yran suffer the depredations to continue, and that every year the Affghan robbers carry away more than 500 slaves, who they sell like sheep. Nobody will allow that this can be tolerated.

After the beginning of the war with the Affghanistan, the Sovereign of Yran took possession of several fortresses, and submitted some great towns to his power. Herat resisted, for it is a well-constructed fortress. Mr. Mc Neill and the Russian Envoy, Simonovich, have both resided at Tehran with the permission of the Shah, but Mr. Mc Neill removed from Tehran without permission, and went on his own account to Herat, with the intention of begging leave from the Shah of going into the fortress, in order, as he said, to persuade Kiamran to submission; adding, that he would try to persuade him to present himself before the Shah. But when he got into the fortress, he did the contrary of what he had said, telling Kiamran that the fortress was inexpugnable, and that he must resist till the beginning of the winter, when he would have the siege raised; it is also known that he has distributed at Herat a sum of 8,000 tomans, and in that manner he left it.

Let us draw back to the affair of the messenger.

The Shah sent General Ali Khan to the house of Mr. Mc Neill in order to offer him an apology, which he did not accept; that General was followed by the Great Visir of Yran, Hagi Mirza Aga, sent with the same instructions, and in order to beg Mr. Mc Neill not to depart; he did not receive him, (and his door has been refused to a Great Visir,) profering, in the mean time, a very indecorous language; in short, he took the affair of the messenger as a plea for a misunderstanding, a quarrel, a hatred, in order to leave Yran.

Arrived at Tabriz, he directed very indecorous letters to the Shah; here follows the tenour of one of them. "England proposes that the siege of Herat be raised, that the territory of the Affghans be evacuated, and that the Commander of the outposts, Hagi Khan, be deposed, and in case that proposition be not conceded to, England will send troops against Yran, and begin war."

As a proof of his wish to maintain good relations with England, the Shah yielded to these propositions, deposed Hagi Khan, and raised the siege of Herat, but England has no right founded upon Treaties to meddle with the affairs of the Affghanistan; the Ninth Article of the Treaty expresses it clearly; besides, Hagi Khan was not in fault.

Notwithstanding, Mr. Mc Neill, during the short period of his stay at Yran, in his capacity as Minister, has had recourse to very unpraiseworthy acts, which

are not to be justified, the Shah of Yran suffered them, to show the more his friendship towards England. Now that I am named Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to that Court, I have been directed to condole for the loss of the late Sovereign, King William the Fourth, and to congratulate her present Majesty, the Queen Victoria, on her accession to the throne.

I am besides authorized, by special powers, to do everything in conformity with the existing Treaties, which can meet the wishes of the Court of Great Britain, and encrease the good harmony between both Empires.

The wish of the Shah is, that Mr. Mc Neill be exchanged for a wise and prudent Minister, and born an Englishman.

No. 23.

Viscount Palmerston to M. de Hummelauer.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 4, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th ultimo, communicating to me a despatch from Prince Metternich, in which His Highness inclosed an original memorandum in Persian, drawn up by Hoossein Khan, together with an English translation, relative to the differences at present existing between the Courts of Great Britain and Persia.

In thanking you for this communication, I have to request that you will have the goodness to cause the memorandum to be returned to Hoossein Khan, stating to the Khan that the same reasons which render it impossible for Her Majesty's Government to receive him in England until our demands shall have been complied with by the Shah, equally prevent me from entering into correspondence with Hoossein Khan at Vienna.

With respect to the contents of Hoossein Khan's memorandum, I have only to observe that it is from beginning to end an entire perversion and misrepresentation of the facts to which it relates.

In returning you these papers I have at the same time to apologize for having kept them so long; and I beg you to be assured that the delay has been solely occasioned by an overwhelming pressure of public business.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 24.

Mr. Milbanke to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord,

Vienna, March 8, 1839.

HOOSSEIN KHAN has requested me to be the medium of conveying to your Lordship the inclosed letter, which has been addressed to your Lordship by the Prime Minister of the Shah of Persia, and I take advantage of the departure of an Austrian courier for London to forward it accordingly.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. R. MILBANKE.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Translation of a letter from his Excellency Meerza Massood, His Persian Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the Right Honorable the Lord Viscount Palmerston.

No date of day, month, or year.

After Compliments and Titles.

IT is stated, that as by the will of the one God, the unity and concurrence of the two exalted Governments was perfect, so the Sovereigns are partners in prosperity and in adversity,—in honor and in dishonor.

At the time when the death of the good and just King, William the Fourth, and the accession to her hereditary throne of Her Majesty, the mighty and fate-exalted Sovereign Queen Victoria, became known to the pure mind of His Majesty, the mighty and fate-exalted Sovereign the Shah-in-Shah of Persia, &c., he regarded it as a duty imposed upon him by the generous sentiments of friendship, that one of the confidential individuals near his person and of the especial servants of his Court distinguished for its justice, should be sent to that imperishable State for the purpose of offering the usual condolences and of conveying the accustomed congratulations; that thus the ancient engagements of friendship and union might be renewed with the new Sovereign, and the foundations of the former alliance strengthened.

Therefore the high in rank and station, &c., Hoossein Khan, Chief Adjutant of the whole of the victorious army, one of His Majesty's Privy Council, who is possessed of various classes of the Order of the Lion and the Sun, and of the Green and Red Ribbon of a Commander of Ten Thousand, and of a Jewelled Dagger and Sword, who is of the Nobles of Azerbijan, and from the first until now has at all times been honored by the favorable consideration of the Sovereign, who in the study of the sciences of mathematics and military discipline was a fellow-student with the Lord of the Khalifat, (the Shah): from his acknowledged fidelity and the excellence of his services he became the repository of confidence and trust; he was therefore regarded as a suitable person to be employed on this service, and was commanded to proceed to the Court of that exalted State with the rank of Ambassador.

After having discharged the obligations of condolence and congratulation, and after having presented his letters and delivered friendly messages, he was also directed and empowered to arrange and conclude with the Ministers of that elevated Government certain trifling matters, the termination and conclusion of which has been delayed.

It being so predestined, he became extremely ill on the road, so that for five or six months he was confined to his bed. After his condition had a little improved he set out for his destination. In the mean time his Excellency Mr. McNeill, from his own want of confidence, fell upon unfounded suspicions, and represented to your Excellency, in terms contrary to the fact, the loyalty and friendly feeling of this exalted Government towards that elevated State. For several months we have heard nothing from Mr. McNeill except news of war and hostility, and threats, and strong and bold language; and having made a pretext of two or three trifling matters, not founded on fact, he began to act improperly towards the Ministers of this exalted Government, and to offer them indignities; and independent of his interference in and disturbance of the affairs of Affghanistan, which was contrary to the august Treaty, he also interfered in and disturbed the affairs of the hereditary Kingdom, (Persia.) He wrote several letters to the Governors and to the Teachers of the Faith, and these letters of his shall be submitted to the British Government by the above-mentioned Ambassador, who will also explain his (Mr. McNeill's) other proceedings, which were contrary to the course of friendship between the two States; and how much soever the Ministers of this Government, for the purpose of preserving the terms of friendship, endeavoured to compose and arrange matters, it was unavailing. The Ambassador of the exalted Government (Persia), in addition to his previous instructions, and according to separate letters from the Ministers of the exalted Government, which were delivered to him on the road, was instructed and empowered, first, to offer in a suitable manner excuses to the Ministers of that imperishable Government respecting the unfounded suspicions of his Excellency Mr. McNeill; and to comply with the friendly requests of the British Government, which should be founded upon justice, and according to the terms of the august Treaty.

By command of His Majesty, &c., (the Shah,) I have to state for the information of the British Government, that the constant desire of the Persian Government has been, that during the reigns of two youthful and happy-starred Sovereigns, the thread of attachment and the arrangements of intercourse should be stronger and more perfectly established than heretofore, so that it should be impossible to disturb them, that these two great Empires, in all circumstances, should be sharers and partners in good and evil, in gain and in loss; and I hope that your Excellency also will exhibit the wisdom of prudence, and the resources of good-will and loyalty in preserving the terms of friendship, and in augmenting

the causes of union between these exalted States; and that the Ambassador of this exalted Government will return from that dignified Court, having succeeded in the objects of his mission.

What more shall I write?

(Seal)

MEERZA MASSOOD.

A True Translation.

(Signed)

JOHN Mc NEILL.

No. 25.

Mr. Milbanke to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 6.)

My Lord,

Vienna, March 23, 1839.

YOUR Lordship's despatches to the 11th of March, with their respective inclosures, were delivered to me by the messenger Wright, yesterday morning.

I lost no time in making to Hoossein Khan the communication prescribed to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 8th of March, that Her Majesty's Government were still determined not to receive him, until the Shah should have complied with all the demands which have been made by Mr. McNeill on the part of the British Government.

Hoossein Khan appeared to be greatly chagrined at the result of his efforts to overcome the determination of Her Majesty's Government on this point, which he had all along persisted in thinking would prove successful, and said, that he greatly regretted the repugnance of Her Majesty's Government to receive him, since, although the Shah was most anxious to make the fullest concessions, there no longer remained any means of communication between the two Courts.

Hoossein Khan seems very undecided what steps he shall now take, whether to return to Persia, which was his first impression, or proceed to London, where he says he has some money transactions to arrange, or continue his journey to Paris, for the purpose of presenting the letter from the Shah to the King of the French, of which he is the bearer. I rather think, however, he will decide upon the latter course.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

J. R. MILBANKE.

No. 26.

Viscount Palmerston to Meerza Massood.

Foreign Office, April 22, 1839.

THE Undersigned, &c., has had the honor to receive from Meerza Massood, His Persian Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, a letter, without any date to show when it was written. In that letter, Meerza Massood announces that Hoossein Khan has been sent by the Shah of Persia to congratulate the Queen upon Her Majesty's accession to the throne, to assure the British Government of the friendly sentiments of that of Persia, to complain of the conduct of Sir John McNeill, and to settle some matters the conclusion of which has been delayed.

In reply, the Undersigned has to observe to Meerza Massood, that with regard to the friendly sentiments of the Persian Government, it is the habit of the Government of Great Britain to judge of the sentiments of Foreign Powers, by the conduct which such Powers pursue, rather than by the language which their Ambassadors may hold; and the conduct of the Persian Government for some time past has been on many occasions so hostile, and on some occasions so affronting to Great Britain, that if the Persian Government wishes to convince the British Government that the sentiments of Persia are friendly towards Great Britain, that object would be better attained by a change in the conduct of Persia, than by the mission of Hoossein Khan.

With regard to the complaints which Hoossein Khan is instructed to make against Sir John McNeill, the Undersigned has only to say that the conduct

of Sir John Mc Neill during his mission in Persia, has been entirely approved by the British Government, and was in all respects conformable with the intentions of that Government, and with the instructions which were sent to Sir John Mc Neill.

Meerza Massood says, that Hoossein Khan is sent to conclude some matters which have been delayed, but his Excellency does not mention what those matters are. The Undersigned is led to suppose, that among the matters which have been delayed, Meerza Massood may include the signature of a commercial Treaty, in compliance with the engagement taken by Persia, in the preamble of the Treaty of Tehran of November 25, 1814. It is indeed too true, that the fulfilment of this engagement has been delayed by Persia much longer than is consistent with the stipulations of the Treaty of Tehran of 1814. But commercial Treaties are made between Governments which are on terms of friendship towards each other; and such is not the state of the relations between Great Britain and Persia at the present moment. Persia has not hitherto complied with the just demands made by Sir John Mc Neill on behalf of Great Britain; although, by a letter written by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 15th of August, 1838, the Shah formally and officially promised to do so. It is necessary, therefore, that the Shah should perform his promises, and when that is done, Hoossein Khan will be received by the English Government; but till the Shah shall have performed his promises, and shall have complied with the demands made by Sir John Mc Neill, neither Hoossein Khan, nor any other Envoy from Persia, can be received by the British Government.

Colonel Sheil, who is Secretary of Legation to the British Mission in Persia, and who is acting as Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of Sir John Mc Neill, is remaining at Erzeroom, on purpose to receive and to transmit to the British Government the fulfilment of the promises of His Majesty the Shah.

The Undersigned, &c.,

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

No. 27.

Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 22, 1839.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a sealed packet, addressed to His Excellency Meerza Massood, containing a letter from me to that Minister, of which a copy is inclosed for your information; and I have to instruct you to forward the same to Tehran by an express messenger.

I add a translation of the letter from Meerza Massood to which my letter is an answer, and which was delivered by Hoossein Khan to Her Majesty's Minister at Vienna for transmission to England.

I am, &c.,

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

No. 28.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 18.)

(Extract.)

Paris, April 15, 1839.

THE Duc de Montebello informed me yesterday that Hoossein Khan, who had been nominated by the Shah of Persia his Ambassador to the Court of London, but to whom it was intimated by Lord Ponsonby at Constantinople, and by Mr. Milbanke at Vienna, that under existing circumstances he would not be received by Her Majesty, had arrived at Vincennes, and that as he had announced himself to be the bearer of credentials to the King of the French, the French Government had determined to receive him with the same etiquette which is observed towards an Ambassador from Turkey, and to defray his expenses during his stay at Paris. The last Persian Ambassador who was in France was received by Louis the Eighteenth upon his throne, but it is not intended to receive Hoossein Khan with the same honor.

No. 29.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 21.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 19, 1839.

HOOSEIN KHAN, Ambassador from Persia, was received by the King of the French on Wednesday last, and on the same day paid a visit to me as well as to the other Ambassadors at this Court. I returned his visit yesterday, but as during the short time I was with him, some of my colleagues were present, he had no opportunity, in his conversation with me, of making any reference to the differences existing between his Sovereign and the Court of London.

This morning, however, I received a note from him, of which I inclose a literal copy, and I transmit to your Lordship the answer I returned to his note.

The correspondence of your Lordship with Mr. Milbanke, and your answer to M. Hummelauer's communication in respect to the Persian Ambassador, of which your Lordship sent to me copies, induced me to think that in declining to discuss with him the differences between our two Governments, or to be the channel of communication between Hoossein Khan and Her Majesty's Government, unless he had to apprise me of his Sovereign having complied with the demands of Great Britain, I was acting in conformity with your Lordship's views and intentions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Hoossein Khan to Earl Granville.—(Literal Copy.)

April 19, 1839.

BEEING extremely pleased by the visite of which his Excellency honored me, her kind and delight feeling having prevent me in a hight consideration of your Lordship; I take the liberty to require an entrewie in which I have news to communicate to his Excellency recently received from my country, with order to be participated to Her Britannic Majesty's Minister, in order to be transmited in England. I am, therefore, allay to find in this contry such a distinguished personnage as his Lordship, whose talent and prudence are well knowing over all the world.

I hope you will favored me with your agreeable company as soon as possible.

I remain, &c.,
(Signed) HOOSEIN KHAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

Earl Granville to Hoossein Khan.

Paris, April 19, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter, in which you express the wish to have an interview with me for the purpose of communicating to me intelligence recently received from Persia, with the intention of its being transmitted to the British Government. I learn from the correspondence of Mr. Milbanke with Lord Palmerston, that my Government, for the same reasons which in their opinion have rendered it impossible for Her Majesty to receive your Excellency in the character of Ambassador from the King of Persia to the Court of London, until the demands made by Her Majesty's Government have been complied with by His Persian Majesty,

equally prevented Her Majesty's Government from entering into correspondence with your Excellency at Vienna.

Under these circumstances I feel myself precluded from being the channel of communication from your Excellency to Her Majesty's Government, or of entering into a discussion with your Excellency upon the questions at issue between the two Governments, unless the intelligence you have recently received from Persia be such as may happily remove the difficulty which at present exists in regard to your reception at the Court of the Queen of England. I beg, however, to add, that I shall be happy to receive your Excellency, whenever it may suit your convenience to pay me a visit, and assure you personally of the high consideration with which, &c.,

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 30.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 23, 1839.

HER Majesty's Government approve of the answer which your Excellency has returned to the note addressed to you by Hoossein Khan, copies of which answer and note are inclosed in your Excellency's despatch of the 19th instant.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 31.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 25.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 22, 1839.

ON Friday last I transmitted to your Lordship copies of a letter addressed to me by the Persian Ambassador, Hoossein Khan, and of my answer. On Saturday I received from his Excellency a note, proposing to call upon me, and as I had, in my reply to his first letter, distinctly apprized him that I could not enter into any discussion upon the causes of the existing differences between the British and Persian Governments, I felt no objection to complying with his request, and I named this day for receiving him. After the exchange of some personal compliments and the expression of his regret that any coldness or misunderstanding should have arisen between two nations who had been so long connected in bonds of amity, Hoossein Khan said to me, that he had recently received despatches from Persia, the contents of which he was desirous to communicate to Her Majesty's Government. In those despatches were inclosed a letter from the Shah of Persia addressed to the Queen of Great Britain, and a letter from the Minister of his Sovereign to your Lordship; and he added, that upon the two points which had formed the ground of complaint made by Mr. McNeill against the Persian Government, these letters were most satisfactory.

I reminded his Excellency of my having before apprized him that I could not enter into a conference with him upon these questions; and that all I could do was to take charge of any letters which he might be desirous to have securely conveyed to your Lordship; that on Mondays and Fridays my courier left Paris for London. He said he would avail himself of my offer on Friday next.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 32.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 29.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 26, 1839.

IN my despatch of Monday last, I reported to your Lordship the substance of a conversation which passed between the Persian Ambassador and me, in which I declined to enter into discussion with his Excellency on the questions at issue between our two Governments, but did not refuse to transmit by the messenger of the Embassy any letter which he might be desirous to have conveyed securely to your Lordship. His Excellency seems to have misapprehended my meaning, for instead of a letter addressed to your Lordship, I received from him last night the note which I now inclose.

The Duc de Montebello observed to me this morning, that Hoossein Khan seems to have had no other object in coming to Paris, than to be in the vicinity of England.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Hoossein Khan to Earl Granville.—(Literal Copy.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 25, 1839.

I WAS been informed on my journey from Persia to England by the British Ambassadors of Constantinople and Vienna, that I could not be received in London as an Ambassador, before the settlement of the debates occurring between these two Governments. Consequently, as I have been designed from my nation to increase the friendship of England and Persia, and in question to the said Ministers, in order to know what been the matter of the discontentment of their Sovereign, I had the following answer: namely,—

That Mr. McNeill's messenger was stopped in the Persian dominions, and that my Government sent an army against Herat. On that purpose I expressly sent despatches to my King in order to know his dispositions, and I prolong my journey untill I had received the relative instructions which I am very glad to say reached me in my arrival to Paris.

Amongst these despaches there is a letter for Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, full of noble and kind expressions, and in which is plainly showed how His Majesty was displeased that Mr. McNeill's messenger was for a short time stopped. Case occurred by mystake, and for which His Majesty wrote me how vexed and sorry he has been. Besides that, His Majesty manifests how he will think himself happy by the increase of mutual friendship, for which he gladly agree whatever claim which could have contribution to the interests as to England and Persia.

Our Minister of Foreign Affairs joins also with the said letter, and other according the willing of my august Sovereign for the final termination about the remainder debate.

I, therefore, may have good hopes, that in my arrival to London, in delivering those two letters to the British Government, I will have the pleasure to be the channel at the renewing of a so usefull friendship between those two great people, and ending the remainder debates in a manner which fully satisfy the English and Persian States.

I with a great pleasure intend to go in a short time to London, and before that I believe it would be necessary to transmit the aforesaid news to his Excellency Lord Palmerston, and I have no doubt his Excellency wishes by all his heart to see the friendship of the two Powers prosperous.

I therefore will be full oblige to your Excellence, if you will have the kindness as Ambassador of the British Court in that country, to transmit the above good news to Lord Palmerston.

I remain, &c.,
(Signed) HOOSSEIN KHAN.

No. 33.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 30, 1839.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 26th of April, I have to request you to inform Hoossein Khan, that the British Government sees no reason to alter the determination which it has already communicated to him, and that he cannot be received as an Ambassador from the Shah of Persia, until the Shah shall have performed the promise officially made to the British Government by the letter addressed to Sir John Mc Neill by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the 15th of August, 1838.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 34.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 5.)

My Lord,

Paris, May 3, 1839.

I RECEIVED yesterday your Lordship's despatch of the 30th of April, and in conformity to the instructions contained in it, I have addressed a note to the Persian Ambassador, Hoossein Khan, of which I inclose a copy.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Earl Granville to Hoossein Khan.

Paris, May 2, 1839.

THE Undersigned lost no time in communicating to his Government the note which his Excellency Hoossein Khan did him the honor to address to him on the 25th of last month, and with reference to that communication, instructions have been given by Lord Palmerston, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Her Britannic Majesty, to state to his Excellency Hoossein Khan, that the British Government sees no reason to alter the determination which it has already communicated to him, that he cannot be received as an Ambassador at the Court of London from the Shah of Persia, until the Shah shall have performed the promise officially made to the British Government by the letter addressed to Sir John Mc Neill by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 15th of August, 1838.

The Undersigned, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 35.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received May 30.)

My Lord,

Paris, May 28, 1839.

THE Secretary of Marshal Soult called upon me this morning, for the purpose of informing me that Hoossein Khan, the Persian Ambassador accredited at this Court, had applied to the French Government for a passport to enable him to go to England as a private individual. The Marshal, before he acceded to this application, thought it his duty, in courtesy to the English Government, to apprise me of it. I replied that I had no authority to make any objection to Hoossein Khan visiting England as a private individual, but that I was very sensible of the attention of Marshal Soult in making to me the communication.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

P. S.—I understand that the Persian Ambassador purposes to leave Paris, (leaving here his establishment of attendants, &c.,) on Sunday or Monday next.

No. 36.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 4, 1839.

Her Majesty's Government approve of the course which your Excellency pursued upon being informed by Marshal Soult of the application which Hoossein Khan had made to the French Government for a passport to enable him to proceed to England as a private individual.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 37.

Hoossein Khan to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 7.)

My Lord,

I WAS deputed as Ambassador to the Court of London by His Majesty the Shah of Persia, and on the road Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassadors ordered me by your Lordship's desire not to proceed, as my embassy would not be acceptable. On demanding the reason, I was informed, that it was in consequence of complaints, in which a courier was concerned, and of other matters. It became incumbent on me to apprise my Government of these orders issued by your Lordship, and to delay on the road till an answer should be received from Persia, as to whether I should proceed or return. After my arrival in Paris, the order arrived from my Government, directing me to go to London, and to lay before Her Britannic Majesty's Ministers the letter addressed by His Majesty the Shah of Persia to Her Majesty the Queen of England at the period of my departure from Persia, and also one lately received, containing ample apologies respecting the affair of the courier, and also touching other matters, which might from their contents be satisfactorily arranged,

together also with other letters, indicative of the friendship between the two States, addressed to me by the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs. After the receipt of the order above alluded to, if I neglected to fulfil my instructions, I should be considered highly culpable by my own Government, and consequently incur danger to my life and property. And I therefore left my servants and heavy baggage in Paris, and came to London as a private gentleman. I confidently hope, when these papers have been perused by your Lordship, that every satisfaction required by the British Government will have been given, and that friendship heretofore existing between the two States, shall be strengthened and increased. As I have not a Persian interpreter with me, I beg to solicit, as a favor, from your Lordship, that some person acquainted with the Persian language be directed to translate the papers in my possession, but which, being original, I cannot, under the orders of my own Government, put into other persons' hands.

Should the contents of these documents prove satisfactory to your Lordship, and to Her Majesty's Government, I trust that I may be received in my official capacity, and should they not prove satisfactory, (which God forbid,) in such a manner as to remove all unpleasant feeling between the two States, I beg of your Lordship to state the same, that I may return to my own country as early as possible.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HOOSSEIN KHAN.

No. 38.

Viscount Palmerston to Hoossein Khan.

Foreign Office, June 8, 1839.

LORD PALMERSTON has had the honor to receive, on the 7th instant, the letter of Hoossein Khan.

His Lordship hopes very shortly to be able to send a confidential person, agreeably to Hoossein Khan's proposition, to make copies of the letters to which Hoossein Khan alludes.

No. 39.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 9.)

(Extract.)

Erzeroom, April 19, 1839.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of March 9, inclosing a report from Her Majesty's Minister at Vienna of his conversations with Hoossein Khan, I think it right to make some observations on such parts of the communications of the Ambassador as my personal knowledge enables me to declare to be incorrect.

Hoossein Khan implies that Mr. McNeill shewed a want of respect in his communications with the King of Persia. Now, up to the time of the King's departure on the campaign to Herat, I almost invariably accompanied Mr. McNeill (I recollect but one instance to the contrary) on those occasions that he had audiences with His Majesty, and I am able to give my testimony, that nothing could exceed the deferential respect which marked the demeanour of Mr. McNeill. That the Shah was of the same opinion, was sufficiently obvious from the affability and consideration with which he always treated Her Majesty's Envoy. The written communications of Mr. McNeill with the King of Persia are before your Lordship, and having been chiefly translated by me, I have only to remark with regard to them, that a large portion of the deferential terms employed in the originals, was omitted by me in the translations, for the purpose of rendering the style less obscure.

Hoossein Khan's account of the primary causes which led to the outrage on the Courier is equally destitute of foundation. Instead of being sent with the sanction of the Persian Government to Meshed, as the Khan states, to receive despatches from a Herat Courier, he, without any intimation having been given to the Persian Government, was ordered to accompany the Herat Envoy to Meshed, in order that if any forcible detention were used towards the Envoy, he might bring the earliest intelligence of the circumstance to Tehran; and also, that if Kamran Shah were disposed to renew the negotiation which had been broken off at Tehran, a confidential person might convey his proposal to Her Majesty's Envoy. Instead of receiving secret instructions to proceed to Herat, as asserted by Hoossein Khan, he was distinctly ordered not to prosecute his journey beyond Meshed.

No. 40.

Memorandum for the guidance of Meerza Ibrahim, in his communications with Hoossein Khan.

Foreign Office, June 10, 1839.

THE sole object of the first interview of Meerza Ibrahim with Hoossein Khan, will be to take copies in Persian of all letters and instructions from the Shah of Persia, or from his Ministers, which it would be the duty of Hoossein Khan, if he were received in the character of Ambassador from the Shah of Persia to Her Majesty, to deliver to Her Majesty or her Ministers.

Meerza Ibrahim will endeavour to ascertain whether each paper which may be placed before him by Hoossein Khan to be copied, bears an original character of this kind; and until all such have been copied and translated, and have been duly considered by Lord Palmerston, Meerza Ibrahim will not take copies of any other papers or statements, and especially not of any which may have been drawn up by Hoossein Khan, and which are not authenticated by the signature of the Shah, or of his Ministers.

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 41.

Paper to be delivered by Meerza Ibrahim to Hoossein Khan.

Foreign Office, June 10, 1839.

LORD PALMERSTON presents his compliments to Hoossein Khan, and with reference to the following passage in the letter from Hoossein Khan to Viscount Palmerston, which was received on the 7th instant, namely, "I beg to solicit as a favor from your Lordship, that some person acquainted with the Persian language, be directed to translate the papers in my possession, but which being original, I cannot, under the orders of my own Government, put into other persons' hands," Lord Palmerston begs to acquaint Hoossein Khan, that the bearer, Meerza Ibrahim, Oriental Professor at the East India College at Hertford, a gentleman who possesses Lord Palmerston's full confidence, has been requested by Viscount Palmerston to wait upon Hoossein Khan, in order to take copies of the original papers above referred to, with a view to making afterwards a translation of them.

No. 42.

Hoossein Khan to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 12.)
(Literal Copy.)

My Lord,

Mivart's Hotel, June 11, 1839.

I THANK your Lordship for the receipt of two polite notes with which you favoured me, and particularly for your kindness in sending to me Meerza Ibrahim, a gentleman specially well qualified for the object I was so anxious to accomplish.

I have, accordingly, this day permitted the Meerza to take copies of two original letters from His Majesty the Shah to Her Britannic Majesty; and also one from Mirza Masoud, the Minister for Foreign Affairs to your Lordship.

As your Lordship stated in your last note, that Meerza Ibrahim possessed your full confidence, I also placed every confidence in him by laying open to him many other confidential papers which I had brought with me from Persia, and others also which I had since received from my Government, with a view that (if it pleased your Lordship,) the Meerza may state to you, as briefly as you liked, the purport of those letters. I have also other important letters and instructions, which I am enjoined by my Government to communicate to no other person but yourself.

If your Lordship, therefore, has any inclination to be put in possession of them, I shall have much pleasure to deliver them to you, through the assistance of Meerza Ibrahim's interpretations, whenever your Lordship think proper that we should have a meeting.

I have, &c.,
 (Signed) HOOSSEIN KHAN.

No. 43.

Viscount Palmerston to Hoossein Khan.

*No. 9, Stanhope Street,
 June 18, 1839.*

VISCOUNT PALMERSTON presents his compliments to Hoossein Khan, and requests that he will have the goodness to call upon him in Stanhope Street, to-morrow, Wednesday the 19th of June, at one o'clock.

No. 44.

Memorandum of the substance of a Conference between Viscount Palmerston and Hoossein Khan, held in Stanhope Street, June 19, 1839.

THE conference commenced on the part of Lord Palmerston, his Lordship adverting to the causes of complaint which the Shah of Persia's Government had given to that of Great Britain, and, as the most prominent, to the insult offered to the Queen of England, in the ill-usage of Her Majesty's Ambassador's Servant and Courier. In demanding redress for this outrage, three points have been insisted on: First, The dismissal of Hajee Khan; Secondly, an apology from the Vizier, Hajee Meerza Aghassee; and, Thirdly, The grant and publication of a firman, declaring all the members and servants of the British Mission to be under the especial protection of the Shah's Government, and on no pretence to be molested by any Persian authority, or subject, whatsoever.

This redress, his Lordship observed, had been refused; and this refusal was the principal ground on which Sir John McNeill had left the

Persian Court. Hajee Khan had, it is true, been dismissed; but it was distinctly stated by the Shah's Government, that the punishment had been inflicted for military offences, nor was any allusion made to his conduct to the British messenger, as among the causes that occasioned his being cashiered. The Minister, Hajee Meerza Aghassee, had made no apology; but instead, the Shah had sent a letter which was understood to contain the required apology; and had such been the case, it would, of course, have superseded the necessity of such a measure on the Hajee's part. But, unfortunately, the Shah's letter, now tendered by Hoossein Khan, did not afford the required satisfaction. It expressed sorrow, indeed, that the occurrence complained of should have taken place, but stated that the whole affair had been unknown to His Majesty, who had never heard of it, until informed of it by the Khan from Vienna. That it appeared, the Messenger, who had been taken in company with two Affghans, on the frontier, was not known to be a British servant, nor had he himself declared himself as such; but, that as soon as it was known, he had been liberated with his letters unopened.

Now this, his Lordship contended, was so far from being an apology, that it appeared as if His Majesty were trifling with the English Government; for, not only must His Majesty have known of the outrage committed on the British messenger, from the complaints of the British Minister himself, and by his demands for redress, but he must have known that the refusal of this redress was the chief cause of that Minister's retiring from His Majesty's Court. Indeed, Hoossein Khan himself must have known the same thing, though not at Court, as he had been warned by Sir John McNeill, that he, the Khan, would not be received as Ambassador at the British Court, while things remained as they were.

Had the Shah's letter merely expressed sorrow at the occurrence, with an assurance that care should be taken that nothing similar should happen again, this would have been sufficient, as far as regards an apology. But when His Majesty goes on to declare his ignorance of the outrage having occurred, in the face of all that had passed on the subject, this so completely destroys the value of his previous expressions of friendship and regret, that his Lordship felt it impossible to think of presenting the letter to the Queen.

To this statement of his Lordship, which occupied a considerable time, Hoossein Khan replied at great length. He first assured his Lordship, that whatever might be the difference in point of form or terms, in the styles of Persian and English writing, he knew so well the mind of his Sovereign on this subject, that he could take upon himself to say, His Majesty's true meaning was to express the most sincere desire for preserving and increasing the friendly relations that had hitherto subsisted between Great Britain and Persia, and that he could not understand the letter in question in any other sense, than as offering to the English Government, the fullest satisfaction for an offence accidentally and ignorantly committed.

Referring, then, to Sir J. McNeill's demands for redress, he declared, that ample redress had been tendered, but refused by that gentleman—Hajee Khan had been dismissed. "Yes," replied Lord Palmerston, "but it was not stated to be for his conduct in the affair of the messenger; he was dismissed by a court-martial for military offences, and so it was specifically stated. Now, we demand, not only an acknowledgment of the punishment having been inflicted for the outrage of which we complain, but that this shall be made public by a firmaun, that all Persia may know the consequences of insulting or maltreating an individual attached to the British Mission."

The Khan observed in reply, that there were no courts-martial in Persia, and that it was not the custom there to publish by firmans the causes of punishments inflicted on defaulters; and, he contended that though not specifically mentioned, the offence against the British Government was, in reality, among those for which the man had been punished. The subject was much dwelt upon, but there was little variation in point of argument or statement of fact; and his Lordship, after thus pointing clearly out that the first condition in the demand for redress had virtually been refused, proceeded to observe, that it was now too late to remedy the

omission; Hajee Khan had been dismissed—for other causes than those set forth by the British Minister—but dismissed he had been, and could not of course be restored, in order to undergo dismissal a second time at the instance of the British Government. He would, therefore, proceed to the second demand—that of an apology from Hajee Meerza Aghassee.

In reply to this, the Khan adverted to the high rank of the Minister, his holy character, and the spiritual influence he possessed in Persia, and particularly over the Shah's mind, in a tone, as it appeared, though not distinctly expressed, of repudiating the idea that such a man could stoop to an apology; and he again referred to the satisfaction already tendered, and the Shah's condescension in expressing his regret at the unintentional affront offered to the British Minister, in the person of his courier.

This brought on a long discussion on the conduct of that courier, and the circumstances under which he had been seized. The Khan appealed to military usage, even among the nations of Europe, in support of the right of arresting suspicious persons on the borders of belligerent countries, when obviously attempting to elude observation. The man, he affirmed, was taken in company with two Affghans, having no documents in his possession to prove him an English servant. A custom had lately been introduced in Persia, binding all persons travelling from place to place, to have a passport from the authorities of the town or village last left; or, if arriving from a foreign country, to apply for one at the first village met with. This, the Khan remarked, was only in accordance with European practice; and those residing in Persia had no more right to complain of, or to transgress it, than he should have himself, in case of travelling through France or Germany. Now the messenger in question was possessed of no such passport.

Lord Palmerston observed, that it was the undoubted privilege of all diplomatic agents to grant passports to their own servants, which passports were respected by all foreign Powers; and that to impugn this privilege, and to seize or stop couriers or messengers sent under its protection, would be virtually putting a stop to all diplomatic intercourse whatever. The courier of an Ambassador is always sacred: no matter what his errand, or whither he may be bound.

In this the Khan acquiesced; but observed, that the man had not even a passport from Sir J. McNeill. That, Lord Palmerston asserted, did not alter the case, the man was recognized as the servant of the British Mission, and in that capacity should have been permitted to go and come, freely, as might be required.

The Khan again asserted that he was not known as a British messenger, and in proof of his assertion, referred to a letter of Meerza Ali's to Sir J. McNeill, copy of which he held in his hand.

Lord Palmerston, on this, turned to the papers on the subject laid before Parliament, and pointed to the account given of the messenger's seizure, by himself and Captain Stoddart; and also to a letter of Meerza Ali's, of prior date, also addressed to Sir J. McNeill, both of which proved that the man had been taken prisoner, within twelve fursukhs of Meshed, after being recognized by M. Borowski, (a Polish officer then in the Persian service,) as a servant of the British Mission.

The Khan still insisted that he held in his hand the only true account of the circumstances, in a copy of the only genuine letter of Meerza Ali's; and to this, and to the statements made by the Shah in his letter, he appealed. Reference was then made to the translation of that very letter of Meerza Ali's, referred to by the Khan, which was found in the Parliamentary Papers, and which was read to the Khan by Meerza Ibrahim: but he insisted that it was not a just translation; his own being the only correct one.

On this, Lord Palmerston remarked, that as it appeared that Meerza Ali had given two different accounts of the transaction in his two letters to Sir John McNeill, while the copy of one of these in the Khan's hands, differed from both, and that the Shah's letter differed from them all, particularly in denying that his Majesty knew any thing about the business, till informed of it by letters from the Khan while resident at Vienna; the British Government, under these circumstances, had only to receive as

correct the account given by its own servants, which was clear and consistent, and supported by various proofs, as well as by internal evidence; rejecting all others that were unaccompanied by such evidence.

Lord Palmerston also pointed out, that besides the apology, the British Government demanded the publication of a firman, assuring protection in future to all persons employed by the British Mission.

But waving for the time the question of the messenger, there were other matters that required to be arranged before it was possible for an Ambassador from Persia to be received at the British Court. His Lordship felt quite disposed to give His Persian Majesty credit for a wish to preserve unbroken the friendship of Great Britain. That friendship is fraught with so much advantage to Persia, that she would not lightly forego it. Unfortunately His Majesty's officers and functionaries did not appear animated by the same sentiments; for instances of their ill-will and bad conduct were frequent. Among these he should mention two, which had been brought to the notice of the Persian Government by Sir J. McNeill.

The first was an occurrence at Bushire, where it appeared that the Cazee had, from some cause or other, been betrayed into insulting the Resident of the East India Company, and even to threatening the Mission with violence, reminding them of the fate of the Russian Mission under Grebayadoff, and menacing to stir up the inhabitants of the place to outrages and acts of hostility.

The second was the case of Major Todd's house at Tehran. That officer being absent on duty, had left his house, as he conceived in safety, under the care of the Persian authorities; but so far were they from fulfilling their trust, that they had not only taken possession of the house, but had placed in it another person—a Polish colonel, his Lordship believed, in the service of His Persian Majesty.

The writer of this does not distinctly recollect what reply the Khan made to the first charge. But to the second he answered, that it was not in his power to say much upon the subject. If the occurrence had taken place, it must have been after his departure from Tabreez; but there was no Polish colonel in the Persian service. There had been one, Borowski, but he was dead.

Lord Palmerston observed, that in the absence of some of the papers, which were not with him, he could not exactly recollect what the name of the colonel was; but of the fact that he had been put into Major Todd's house there was no doubt, and that Major Todd must have satisfaction for the outrage, was clear. To turn a man out of his home in any country was bad; in Persia above all, it was a signal insult, and must be redressed.

The Khan admitted that it really was a very disgraceful affair in Persia, and that if it had actually happened, it must have been through inadvertence, and would of course be remedied. These were trifles, said the Khan, which would easily be put to rights.

Lord Palmerston said they might be trifles in themselves, but not so in reference to the feeling they evinced on the part of Persia. There was another occurrence which had come to the ears of the British Government only two days before—it was this. An Admiral of the Queen of England, Admiral Maitland, had come up the Gulf to Bushire in a seventy-four gun ship. He had landed and called on the Governor; civilities had passed between them; the Admiral had passed a night in the town. But on purposing to go on board his ship the next day, he was informed by the Governor, that he would not be permitted to embark at a particular place, where he had landed, and where persons of respectability were in the custom of landing and embarking, but that he must embark at another, the common landing-place, which was unsuitable and inconvenient. The Admiral replied, that he would submit to no such indignity; that he should certainly embark at the proper and more respectable landing-place, and should have his boats there in order to prevent violence to his person. Accordingly, he did proceed to embark at the forbidden place, and on arriving there, was actually fired upon from a fort or bastion near, which commanded the spot; and the people of the town gathering together, threw stones at the officers and crews, thereby bruising and hurting some

of the former. This was a very grave outrage, and must be atoned for.

The Khan said he had heard nothing of it till now; but that he could easily understand, after the seizure of the Island of Karrak by the British forces, that the appearance of a large armed ship might alarm the people and Governor of Bushire; they might be at a loss to know whether she came as friend or foe, and under the latter impression, might have committed the violence complained of.

Lord Palmerston replied, that had such been actually the state of the case, there might have been less cause of complaint. Had the Governor, on seeing the ship appear, prevented the Admiral from landing at all, on the plea of being doubtful of his intentions, no offence could have been taken. But the fact was not so. Not only was no objection made to the Admiral's landing, but he was received with courtesy—as a friend—civilities had passed between him and the Governor; yet after this did the outrage take place. Thus, it was not only insult, but treachery that he had to complain of; insult, in the attempt to treat him disrespectfully; and treachery, in firing upon him after all that had passed. "And," added his Lordship, "had the Admiral, on arriving on board, turned his guns upon the town, and knocked it about their ears, in my opinion, he would have been justified in so doing." To this the Khan made little reply, (so far as the writer recollects,) beyond alluding to the feelings excited by all the late unpleasant occurrences, and observing, that as in the case of the affair which had formerly taken place at Bombay, this too would no doubt be amicably settled.

In that conviction Lord Palmerston joined, and then passed on to what, he observed, was, after all, the most important matter of the whole—namely, the Shah's proceedings against Herat and Affghanistan, in defiance of the reiterated remonstrances of the Minister of Great Britain. His Lordship admitted, that had the quarrel been a simple *bonâ fide* quarrel between Persia and an Affghan State, Great Britain would have felt herself restrained from interfering in it, by the IXth Article of the existing Treaty; but such was not the case. The movement of the Shah against Herat, although ostensibly Persian, was, in fact, directed and abetted by foreign agents. It was promoted by their influence, guided by their counsels, and assisted by their money. Foreign officers lent their aid in the conduct of the siege, and Foreign agents had been employed in negotiations for the further subjugation of Affghanistan. It was essentially a Foreign movement towards the dominions of Great Britain in India, made by means of Persian materials, and in the name of Persia; and was the British Government to see this movement—this hostile and dangerous movement—against her vital interests, made under cover of that Treaty, and not to interfere and prevent it? Unquestionably they would, and had a right to prevent such danger; and they were determined so to do to protect these dominions; and as, for that purpose, the independence of Affghanistan appeared to them essential, they should take care it did remain independent of Persia.

The Khan replied, that although they undoubtedly regarded Herat as essentially belonging to Persia, the Shah had actually abandoned the siege of that place, and retired at the instance of the British Minister. Sir John Mc. Neill had intimated to His Majesty, that either he must abandon his designs against that place, or consider himself as opposed to Great Britain. His Majesty had asked, "What? if I go on with the siege of Herat, will Great Britain go to war with me?" The answer was in the affirmative; and the reply of His Majesty was, "Then, rather than go to war with England, I will retire;" and, accordingly, he did retire.

"Yes," replied Lord Palmerston, "he retired, indeed, from Herat, but he still keeps possession of Ghorian, and, I believe, of Furrâh and Subzawar. He has left garrisons in these places, so that when he returns, as he intends to do, he may have all these places ready to commence operations from. This is entirely contrary to the spirit of our remonstrances and His Majesty's promise."

"But," replied the Khan, "how can you blame the Shah for retaining possession of Ghorian, while you retain Karrak? Was the seizure of

that place an act of friendship on your part?" "No, by no means," replied Lord Palmerston; "we never represented it as such; it was a measure of force, resorted to in self-defence, to counteract what Persia was doing against our interests in other quarters." "Aye," rejoined the Khan, "and it was done without any intimation or declaration of war, by the Indian Government, which was not at war with us;—what business had the Governor-General to do this?—was not this treachery? Why were we not told what was about to be done? But this was all Mc Neill's doing. It was he that ordered the troops to take Karrak. The Governor-General would never have done so had he not been told to do it. Sir John Mc Neill was always writing to him and telling what was going on." (The Khan here appeared a good deal excited.)

Lord Palmerston replied, that the Governor-General had taken the measures he deemed most expedient for Her Majesty's service. That the Government of India acted, of course, in perfect concert with that of Great Britain; and that as to Sir John Mc Neill's communications with the Governor-General, it was his bounden duty to acquaint him with all that passed. He could not write too often, had he even written every day, and by every possible opportunity. As to his ordering troops against Karrak, it was absurd. He had represented facts to the Governor-General which had led to the employment of the measure in question. The island had been taken, and should be retained until matters between England and Persia were placed upon a satisfactory footing; until Ghorian and the other forts in that quarter should have been given up; and until the required redress had been given for all outrages or injuries.

The Khan stated, that Ghorian was actually on Persian ground. It had been built by Mahommed Khan, of Toorbut, and, of course, belonged to the Shah.

Lord Palmerston said, that Ghorian is not in Persia, but in Affghanistan; and it must be given up, according to the demand made by the British Minister in Persia. If Persia wishes for the friendship of Great Britain, these things must be done. To Great Britain, the alliance of Persia is of small consequence; but that of Great Britain is important to Persia. She has done Persia and the Shah good service, and is willing to do so still; (here the Khan interposed, that Persia had also done good service to England) but Persia must do her part. Her designs on Affghanistan must be given up; the Commercial Treaty must be concluded; and redress afforded for the outrages complained of. On these terms the British Government was willing to renew its intercourse with that of Persia; but if Persia will not comply, if she is unwise enough to reject these terms, then Great Britain must look to its own interests, and take such steps, and adopt such a course of proceedings, as may appear best calculated to secure them, whether these may accord with the views of Persia or not.

To this the Khan replied also at length. On the subject of Ghorian he said little, so far as the writer remembers. With regard to the Commercial Treaty, he said no objection was made to it. It might have been concluded, had Sir John Mc Neill so pleased; that gentleman had refused to accept of the ample apologies that had been tendered for the alleged injuries, and had at all times evinced a determined hostility and disrespect towards the Shah. In short, the whole of the present misunderstanding had come about through his means.

Lord Palmerston here stopped the Khan; it was not the conduct of Sir John Mc Neill that was in question; that conduct had met with the entire approbation of Her Majesty's Government; and the Queen herself, in testimony of her high appreciation of his services, had conferred on him the first class of the Order of the Bath, the highest honor that can be bestowed on an Ambassador; nor had any thing, before or since, come to his, Lord Palmerston's, ears, to shake his confidence in the discretion of Sir John Mc Neill; therefore, he was bound to support him.

His Lordship went on to observe, that there were some other and minor points which, on the present occasion, while explaining to the Khan the various existing causes of complaint, ought not to be passed over.

The Shah had employed Sir Henry Bethune to conduct a mining concern, which had been so successful, that His Majesty was now casting guns and shot, &c., from a rich iron mine opened by that gentleman, who it appeared had employed in this service a large sum of money drawn from his private resources. He had frequently applied for reimbursement of this sum, but had never been able to obtain it.

The Khan replied, that he was aware the Shah had given to Sir Henry Bethune a commission to bring miners and smelters from England; but His Majesty, he could take upon himself to say, had never given Sir Henry authority to disburse a single fraction of money in the concern. He defied Sir Henry to produce a single document empowering him to do so; if he could, he, the Khan, would pay him his demand here and now.

Lord Palmerston remarked, that the credit of the Shah would suffer, if payment were not made; the sum was doubtless not great—a trifle to a King, though important to a private person. The Shah should recollect, that he was much indebted to Sir Henry Bethune, perhaps for even his crown, for had it not been for the victories gained by Sir Henry, he might not now be on the throne.

The Khan said, that the Shah, in point of fact, had never been applied to on the subject. The Shah had been absent in Khorassan or at Tehran. He knew not where Sir Henry had applied; but he did not doubt for a moment that all just demands would be discharged by the Shah. "And," continued he, "whatever Sir Henry may have to complain of, I have still more cause to do so, on the part of the King and of myself. There is a British subject that owes His Majesty and others the sum of 80,000 tomauns—£40,000 sterling; and only yesterday he told me that he was a bankrupt, and could not pay me a farthing; he said I might go to law for it if I liked; he was quite ready to meet me.

Lord Palmerston remarked, that when a man was a bankrupt, he of course could not pay his debts; but the Shah was not in that condition; and the cases were very different; as in the one, Sir Henry had, according to his own statement, relied on the word of a King and a Government, who, whether they had actually given the order or not, had, at all events, profited by the outlay made; in the other, a King and others had trusted to the credit of a private individual, without any guarantee whatever.

His Lordship adverted also to the claims of the officers of the British detachment, serving in Persia, for arrears of allowances. To this the Khan replied, that all these trifles would easily be arranged, when the great questions should have been adjusted. All of them arose, he remarked, from the coldness which late events had occasioned and increased. "Aye," replied Lord Palmerston, "it is that very coldness of which we complain, though your Shah assures us he feels none; but on the contrary, a strong desire to maintain and increase friendly relations between us. The King says that the insult to our messenger was accidental—unintentional; now this I am bound to say I do not and cannot credit. It appears too obviously that the man was recognized for what he really was, a British servant; and that the outrage was deliberately and intentionally committed against him as such, for the purpose of affronting the English Government through its Minister. But granting, for argument's sake, that it was not so, would it not in that case be naturally the Shah's wish to be forward in granting the required satisfaction? You call these things trifles; they may be so; but we look to the hostile dispositions they indicate, and that exist in spite of the friendly expressions of the Shah; we have had enough of these assurances; we now want acts, not words; and until these acts appear, we can make no step towards a renewal of friendly relations."

"And now," continued his Lordship, "that we have discussed at so much length the various points at issue, what I propose is this. The letter of the Shah, brought by the Khan, I cannot present to the Queen of England, for the reasons I have given. We can no longer receive professions while acts continue at variance with them. I doubt not that the Shah wishes to renew his former friendship with the British Government, but he must give proof of it by acceding to its terms. Let His Majesty

write a letter to the Queen, in three lines, if he pleases, stating merely that he deeply regrets the outrages that have been committed towards her servants, but will take care to prevent such occurrences for the future. Let him grant a firmaun, and publish it through his dominions, that all members of the British Mission, and their servants and establishments, are to be regarded as under the royal protection. Let him redress the wrongs sustained by the several individuals that have been mentioned. Let His Majesty abandon all further attempts upon Affghanistan, and give up Ghorian, &c.; and let him conclude the Commercial Treaty with Great Britain. Let these things be done as proofs of his sincere goodwill to Great Britain, and the British Government will consent to a renewal of diplomatic intercourse and friendly relations with Persia; but this not having as yet been done, and Hoossein Khan having no powers to grant them on the Shah's part, I propose that he return home, or send to his Court for such authority; and when he, or any other person so empowered, shall appear here, he shall be received as Ambassador, and treated as such; but till then we can receive no one in that capacity."

This exposition of his Lordship's views was not made without many interruptions on the Khan's part. He assured his Lordship that the Shah was quite ready to write as was required. He even suggested the measure of cutting off from His Majesty's letter the irrelevant and obnoxious portion, a proposition which Meerza Ibrahim scouted, without translating it; and he strongly protested against the indignity of sending himself back and rejecting the autograph letter of the Shah, which the Shah had written with his own hand, in order to evince his respect for Her Majesty.

Lord Palmerston replied that there was no indignity in this, or if there were, that the Shah had brought it on himself. His Majesty had been made aware by Sir John Mc Neill, through the regular channels, of the terms on which intercourse could be renewed; the Khan himself had been informed that he would not be received at the British Court until these terms should have been complied with; yet, still the Shah would send what he might have been certain would not be received, what, under all circumstances, could be regarded as no other than an affronting letter; and the Khan would come, unprovided with the documents which he knew were indispensable to his reception. The fault thus lay with them, and not with the British Government.

The discussion on this point was long and obstinate on the Khan's part; but Lord Palmerston being firm to his purpose, the Khan at length yielded.

During the conference, the Khan had frequently referred to, and desired to read, a paper which the writer understood to contain his instructions. He held also in his hand the letters (copies) of Meerza Ali, which have been alluded to above. When Lord Palmerston concluded what he had to say, his Lordship told the Khan that he was then ready to listen to anything further which he might wish to say, and proposed that he should now read the paper which he had proposed before to read. The Khan remarked that it was now useless. His object had been to discharge his duty to his Sovereign, who had desired him to lay certain matters before his Lordship; but as he was not to be received, it was unnecessary perhaps to do more. His Lordship, however, suggested that it was desirable that everything should be fully communicated now; and the Khan accordingly commenced, by stating that the Court of Persia had its own complaints to make against Sir John Mc Neill, which, to the best of the writer's recollection, resolved themselves into the following charges:—

First. That of general disrespect and indecorous and offensive conduct towards the Shah.

Secondly. That while the Shah was carrying on war against the Affghans, and had forbidden the presence of the European Ambassadors in his camp, as being calculated to influence prejudicially to his interests the conduct of the besieged, Sir J. Mc Neill, in spite of a positive refusal of leave, had come to Khorassan, and forced his way into camp, whither he was instantly followed by the Ambassador of Russia.

Thirdly. That being thus in camp, he had communicated what was

passing to the Governor-General of India and the Indian authorities, which was an act of treachery. (The writer thinks this was the third charge, but cannot be certain whether it was exactly in these terms, or if the above includes the whole charge.)

Fourthly. That Sir J. McNeill had held correspondence with the chief of the law and of the priesthood at Ispahan, and with others of His Majesty the Shah's subjects, requesting them to assure the people, that whatever course the British Government might find itself constrained to take towards the Shah, it had no intention of interfering with or giving annoyance to the people. Copy of one of these letters was produced, and the Khan observed, that this tampering with His Majesty's subjects was in the highest degree reprehensible as a breach of faith towards the Persian Government.

To the first of these charges, which the Khan sought in vain to substantiate by any proof, Lord Palmerston opposed a letter or firman from the Shah himself, in which he adverts to the great and increasing favor in which he held Sir J. McNeill. And his Lordship further observed, that in the absence of positive evidence, where there was but assertion against assertion, he must of course take the word of his own officer.

In reference to the second and third charges, his Lordship showed the Khan copy of Sir J. McNeill's instructions, inserted in the Parliamentary Papers, from which it appeared, that in these points, that gentleman had only obeyed the instructions of his Government. The last charge was not pressed; and the conference broke up with the understanding that Lord Palmerston should embody in a memorandum, (not official) the principal points required of Persia, which memorandum should be translated by Meerza Ibrahim, and given to the Khan, who should either transmit it, or return with it to Persia; and who, or any other person invested with due powers to carry all the points into effect as enumerated in the said memorandum, would then be received as Ambassador from the Court of Persia to that of Great Britain.

(Signed) J. B. FRASER.

No. 45*.

Hoossein Khan to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 21.)

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Mivart's Hotel, June 21, 1839.

THE principal object of my mission to this Government was to effect two very important points.

First, (since some recent accidents had apparently become the source of coldness and dissatisfaction on the part of the British Authorities with regard to the Persian Government,) to endeavour, by all friendly means, to remove every feeling of irritation and discontent which may exist between the two Governments, in order that the foundation of their long subsisting amity and union may obtain fresh strength by this new confirmation.

And secondly, to accomplish, through the assistance and with the consent of your Lordship, several very urgent political objects, also connected with the interests of and important to both Governments; to establish our relations on mutual faith, and to confirm our alliance by solemn and binding engagements.

With respect to the first point, it could be effected only in two ways; either, that this Government should consider the letter of His Majesty the

* The passages in Italics, in this and other translations from the Persian, are more correctly rendered in the version given in the Notes.

Shah, together with that of the Persian Minister of Foreign Affairs, sufficient to banish from the minds of the British authorities all feelings of coldness and hesitation, without entering any further into the details and circumstances of the past events, and to forget at once what had already gone by ; or, since hitherto you had only listened to the statements of one party (viz., your own agents and servants), on the other hand, as justice itself required it, you should also hear our statement of the facts and circumstances, and consider likewise what we had to advance in reply to those charges.

But, on Wednesday the 19th instant, when your Lordship was pleased to grant me the honor of waiting upon you to confer on the subject, although I entered your house full of hopes (of an amicable arrangement), I must own, though with very great regret, that after nearly four hours' conversation, I was obliged ultimately to take my leave of your Lordship, and quit your presence exceedingly disappointed.

For, from your Lordship's statement, it not only became clear to me that you did not consider the letter which His Majesty the Shah, with so much sincerity and with the utmost confidence, had written to Her Majesty the Queen, sufficient to induce the British Government to alter their present sentiments towards Persia, but I found moreover that your Lordship was not disposed to listen to any statement which I had to advance in answer to those charges, with that degree of attention which the importance of the questions seemed to demand.

The English people, specially those of rank and station amongst them, are known for justice and fairness in the world ; I was therefore the more astonished to see your Lordship would not allow of any distinction to be necessary between the answer and the evidence, although this is one of the grand rules of justice.

Your Lordship complained of the Persian Government on several accounts, but you would also prove those points by the evidence of those very persons in whose reports only those charges had their origins, and who were, in fact, no more than our accusers.

On the other hand, whenever I attempted, on the part of my Government, to answer any of those charges, your Lordship either would not listen to me with any degree of attention, or would again repeat the statements of those very individuals, (who, in reality, had themselves caused the mischief,) in justification of their sayings and doings.

The Persian Government had likewise causes, on several grounds, to complain of the conduct and proceedings of the British servants (in Persia), and His Majesty the Shah had never believed that those questionable conducts of theirs could have been by the direction or consent of the British Government, nay, the Shah had firmly believed that (when) those circumstances should be properly represented to this Government, the authors of them would be called into account by the British Ministers.

How great then will be the astonishment of my Lord and Master, the Shah, when I shall, as it will be my duty, represent to him your Lordship's distinct avowal that those proceedings (of which I had to complain), had not only been approved of by the British Government, but such have been the very instructions of this Government to their agents and servants in Persia, according to which they have been obliged to act, and for those services, some of them (as your Lordship stated) have been raised by Her Majesty the Queen to high and exalted stations. *His Majesty the Shah will altogether despair of the friendship and alliance of the British Government.**

Your Lordship, on the part of your Government, enumerated many distinct causes of complaint against the Persian Government, but in the course of our conversation, you very candidly admitted some of them (such for instance as the circumstances of the house of Mr. Todd, the demands of Sir H. Bethune about the mines, and the arrears of the pay of the British officers in the Persian service), to be of not any importance, could

* This statement will increase the astonishment of His Majesty the Shah, and may even cause him altogether to despair of the friendship and alliance of the British Government.

easily be adjusted, and could in themselves never have become the cause of any misunderstandings between the two Governments.

The most important grounds of complaint against the Persian Government then (as your Lordship stated) were two,—one, the affair of the courier, and the other the marching of His Majesty the Shah with an army for the chastisement of the Affghans of Herat.

Now with respect to the first, His Majesty the Shah in his letter to Her Majesty the Queen distinctly states that the guards on duty about the frontiers and in the vicinity of the camp, not knowing the courier (who was at the time in company with two Affghan men), according to the ordinary, though strict, rules of military discipline, they detained him for a few hours at first, but as soon as they discovered who the person was, they permitted him to depart in safety, and he was forwarded with his letters, sealed as they were, to Mr. Stoddart.

Notwithstanding this explanation, His Majesty the Shah in his letter to the Queen distinctly states that at the hearing of this circumstance his royal mind was exceedingly grieved, and he was very sorry that it had happened, and moreover that he repeatedly *sent several noblemen of high rank** to please the heart of Mr. McNeill, hoping he would forget the circumstance.

When your Lordship stated that the Shah's letter was not sufficient as an apology for the transaction, it then of course became incumbent upon me to enter more fully into the details of the circumstance, by stating the truth at large, and hoping thereby to conciliate the minds of the British Government, and to perform my duty in re-establishing the good understanding between the two Governments.

We should therefore fairly state the arguments on both sides, and examine the merits of the case, in order to find out the real truth, and to see which party in fact is to blame.

According to the courier's own confession, there can be no doubt of his having been on his way back from Herat (at the time he was stopped); and on the other hand, Mr. McNeill also distinctly states that he had not sent him any further than to Meshed. From these two circumstances then it is quite clear that that person, at the time when the guards detained him, *could not have been in the service of Mr. McNeill, and therefore he could not be called a courier of his†.*

What real or just cause have then the British Government or their Envoy to complain of the Persian Government on this account?‡

Moreover that person himself (although he did not tell the truth at first to the guards), when more closely questioned to give an account of himself and business, declares (as your Lordship showed me in his statement in print) that he had been a courier sent by Mr. McNeill to Meshed; but when at that place he heard that an English gentleman was ill at Herat, he had been (without having been ordered) to see him, and he was then returning from that place.

Notwithstanding these facts, still if that courier (though a Persian, and a subject of Persia) had in his hand a passport, or even a single line from Mr. McNeill at the time, I am quite certain that, out of respect to the British name, no one would have ever ventured to have interfered with him.

With respect to the proceedings of the Shah against Herat. Although the British authorities themselves very fairly and candidly admit that movement to be no violation, on the part of Persia, of any existing Treaty between that Power and Great Britain, yet your Lordship objected to it because, as you stated, it had been known for certain to the British Government that His Majesty the Shah had undertaken that war purely at the instigations and by the requests of the Russian Agents, who

* This is not stated in the Shah's letter, but only in the Meerza's translation, from which it was ultimately struck out as inaccurate.

† Was not a courier of, or a person sent by, Mr. McNeill.

‡ What real or just cause, then, can the British Government, or their Envoy, have to complain of the Persian Government on this account.

furnished the Shah with money to carry on the war, and with officers to train his army, and that therefore it had become necessary for the British Government (in order to guard and protect the frontiers and boundaries of her own Eastern dominions) to prevent the Shah from the taking of Herat.

To this statement of your Lordship's I answered; "What proofs had the British Government of the Shah's having been instigated by the Russian Agents to attack the Affghans? The reports of your own agents alone, could not, according to any rules of justice, establish *the fact and convict the Persian Government of a falsehood**, [who altogether denied and protested against their unjust representations!!"]†

One of the charges which your Lordship adduced as a proof of the Russian influence, was, that there were or had been Russian officers employed in the Persian army.‡

Now my Lord, I absolutely and positively deny this to be a fact, and§ say again, that if the British Government could only prove this one single point, I, on the part of my Government, admit at once every other charge to be also perfectly true. Nothing is more easy to prove, if true, than this point: let it be named what Russian officer at any time has ever held a commission in any of the Persian regiments; though it is perfectly true that the time never has been when a single Russian officer has been employed in the Persian army. And at the siege of Herat more specially, when, besides the Russian Embassy and those attached to it, (who of course could have nothing to do with the Shah's troops,) there was not a single other Russian subject known in the whole camp.||

Moreover it is a notorious fact, and¶ the British Government themselves admit it, that the Shah raised the siege of Herat, solely and purely at the request and according to the expressed wishes of the British Government, and His Majesty, by the issuing of several Royal firmauns, made this circumstance publicly known throughout his dominion.

In conclusion I have only to add, my Lord, that although I have been unsuccessful in my efforts to realize the most sincere wishes of His Majesty the Shah, in re-establishing (as it was my important instruction) the friendship and good understanding which so long subsisted between the two Governments, yet I am bound to express to your Lordship my sense of obligation for having so far given me the opportunity of performing so much of my duty, as to represent to the British Government the true sentiment of my master the Shah, and his sincere desire to continue in amity with the Queen's Government.

I beg your Lordship will further oblige me by sending me *an answer to this as early as convenient***, that I may take my departure from this country as soon as possible, as my longer delay here, or troubling you any more, when I am not able to fulfil my duty, will be useless and in vain.

Written on the 21st of the month of June, corresponding with the 5th of the month Rebbec-ul-Akker, in the year 1255.

I remain, &c.,
(Seal) HOOSSEIN.

Translated June 27, 1839,

(Signed) MEERZA IBRAHIM.

* The truth of your statements and the falsehood of ours.

† No corresponding passage in the Persian.

‡ Your Lordship also stated that there were and had been Russian officers employed in the Persian army.

§ Not in the Persian.

|| Nothing is more easy to prove, if true, than this point: let it be stated who and what person (except the persons composing the Russian Mission, who could not have been connected with the Persian Government so as to interfere in its affairs) at any time has ever held a commission in any of the Persian regiments; and now I, on the part of my own Government, deny that ever any Russian officer was employed in the regiments of the Shah, especially during the siege of Herat.

¶ Not in the Persian.

** An answer to this, in any manner which your Lordship may think advisable, as early as convenient.

No. 46.

Hoossein Khan to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 22.)

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Mivart's Hotel, June 22, 1839.

I HAD hitherto believed that Sir John McNeill had stated to your Lordship the real cause and reasons for which he quitted the Court of Persia.

But according to the Parliamentary Reports which I have this day seen in the newspapers, it appears that that gentleman has represented to your Lordship that he left Persia for London merely on private business.

Yet it is quite notorious in Persia (as Sir John McNeill himself published it there), that he departed from that country in a hostile mode, and threatening to bring war upon that kingdom. And, notwithstanding so many friendly overtures and apologies which were tendered to him on the part of the Persian authorities, with respect to the affairs of the courier, &c., that gentleman still persevered in his unfriendly disposition, and ordered the English officers in the Persian army, to retire from that country, some of them to Bagdad, and others towards Erzerum, &c.

In denouncing war against Persia, Sir John McNeill did not confine himself to writing only to the individuals attached to the Court of Persia, but he also wrote and circulated his views and intentions (of bringing about a rupture between the two Governments) amongst the body of the learned in Persia; and amongst the rest, he wrote a letter to the same effect to Fakhr-ul-Islam (the Arch-Mojtahed of Persia) Agh-Sayed Baker: a copy of that letter is still in my possession, of which I spoke to your Lordship the day I had the honor of seeing you. I mentioned these circumstances to your Lordship, because I felt it my duty to do so.

I remain, &c.,

(Seal) HOOSSEIN.

Translated June 28, 1839,

(Signed) MEERZA IBRAHIM.

No. 47.

*Viscount Palmerston to Hoossein Khan.**Stanhope Street, July 11, 1839*

VISCOUNT PALMERSTON presents his compliments to Hoossein Khan, and has the honor to transmit to him the inclosed Memorandum, containing a statement of the demands which the British Government makes on that of Persia.

Viscount Palmerston begs leave to add, that he will be ready to see Hoossein Khan again in Stanhope Street, at twelve o'clock, on any day that may suit him, if Hoossein Khan wishes to see Viscount Palmerston again before he leaves England.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Memorandum.

VISCOUNT PALMERSTON has received, and has caused to be translated, the two letters of Hoossein Khan, the one dated the 21st of June, the other dated the 22nd of the same month.

With reference to Hoossein Khan's letter of the 21st of June, Viscount Palmerston has to state, that if Hoossein Khan has failed to accomplish the objects for which he came to England, it is not the fault of the Government of England.

The dissatisfaction felt by the British Government at the conduct of the Government of Persia, is not, as Hoossein Khan represents it, recent; nor does it arise from accidental causes. That dissatisfaction has been occasioned:—First, by insults, to all appearance deliberate and intentional, which have been offered to British Agents in Persia, by persons holding offices and appointments under the Persian Government; and secondly, by the attempts made by the Persian Government to conquer Affghanistan, at the instigation, and with the assistance, of Russian Agents, and in defiance of the remonstrances of the Government of England.

Upon these matters, the British Government made certain demands upon the Persian Government more than a year ago, through Sir J. Mc Neill, Her Majesty's Minister in Persia; and the Persian Government was officially informed by Sir J. Mc Neill, on the 3rd of June, 1838, according to specific instructions which Viscount Palmerston sent to him to that effect, that no Minister from the Shah would be received at this Court, until the Shah had complied with all the demands of the British Government; and the Persian Government was afterwards informed by Colonel Sheil, on the 22nd of November, 1838, that if the demands, at that time made, should not at once be complied with by Persia, the British Government might have other additional demands to make afterwards.

But although the Shah promised both verbally, on the 14th of August, 1838, and by a letter from the Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the 15th of August, 1838, that all the demands of the British Government should immediately be complied with, the promise so made has not, up to this day, been fulfilled. But, on the contrary, other events have since happened, upon which the British Government has been obliged to make fresh demands.

In this state of things, the Persian Government thought fit to order Hoossein Khan to leave Persia on his way to London, notwithstanding the warning given to him in the beginning of September, 1838, by Sir John Mc Neill; and Hoossein Khan has considered it to be his duty to come on to London, although he was told—first, by the British Ambassador at Constantinople, then by the British Minister at Vienna, and afterwards by the British Ambassador at Paris,—that in the present state of things between the two countries, he could not be received if he came to London; and that by coming here, he would only expose himself to mortification and disappointment.

If, indeed, Hoossein Khan had been able, upon his arrival in London, to produce proof that all the demands of England had been duly complied with, the British Government would immediately have received him. But as those demands are still unsatisfied, it was Viscount Palmerston's duty to tell Hoossein Khan, in the interview which they had together, and it is his duty to repeat now, that it is impossible that Hoossein Khan can at present be received.

The first demand of the British Government relates to the outrage committed in the Persian camp near Meshed, upon the person of a messenger belonging to Her Majesty's Mission at Tehran; an outrage which was an insult to the Sovereign of England, and to the British nation; and a violation of the laws by which civilized nations regulate their intercourse with each other.

Hoossein Khan states, that the circumstances of this transaction were

different from the account given of them by Sir John McNeill. But to this, Viscount Palmerston has to reply, that in point of fact, the account which Her Majesty's Government have received, was not given by Sir John McNeill, who did not see the transaction, because he was at Tehran, and not at the Shah's camp, at the time when it happened. The account was given by the messenger himself, and by Colonel Stoddart, an officer of high character and respectability, who was actually present at the camp when the man was brought there, and who saw with his own eyes much of what happened.

The accounts so given are very minute in their details, and are consistent with each other; and Her Majesty's Government can entertain no doubt whatever that they are correct.

But the accounts given of this transaction by the Persian Government and its agents, have not been consistent with each other; for Hoossein Khan has been instructed by his Government to say, in his letter of the 21st June, that when the messenger was seized, it was not known that he was a servant of the British Mission, and that as soon as the fact was known, the man was immediately released, and sent away. But Meerza Ali, the Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs, who was in camp at the time when the transaction took place, wrote on the 6th of January, 1838, to Sir John McNeill, to say, that the reason why the messenger was arrested, and brought to camp, was, that he was known to be a servant of Sir John McNeill, coming from Herat, and the Shah thought that Sir John McNeill had no right to communicate at that moment with the people of Herat.

This statement of Meerza Ali is indisputably the correct one, for it is certain that M. Borowski, who met the messenger between the camp and Meshed, and who knew the man to be a servant of the British Mission, mentioned in camp that he had met the man, and a party was then sent to arrest him, and bring him to the camp.

But the British Government entirely deny that the fact that the man had been to Herat, gave the Persian Government any right to stop him; for Sir John McNeill being the British Minister, had a full and perfect right to send a messenger to any place he chose, either to Herat or elsewhere; and any messenger belonging to the Mission, was entitled to pass free and unmolested, both going out and coming back.

The British Government also entirely deny the assertion made by Meerza Ali, in his letter above mentioned, that because the messenger was a Persian, the Shah had a right to do what he liked with him, and even to put him to death, though he might be innocent of any crime; because, though the laws of Persia may give the Shah the power of so treating a person who is one of his subjects, the law of nations forbids the Shah from molesting a person who is employed by a foreign mission, whether that person be a Persian, or a native of any other country.

Hoossein Khan, however, in his letter of 21st June, denies that the messenger was ill-used during the time he was detained in the camp; but Viscount Palmerston is sorry to say, that upon this point no doubt can exist, and that it is certain that the man was not only arrested, but plundered, stripped, abused, threatened, beaten, and deprived of his despatches.

The only point, indeed, with respect to this transaction, which remains to be discussed, is whether the Persian Government has or has not complied with those demands, on the part of Great Britain, which the Shah distinctly promised to comply with.

Now the demands of Great Britain, with respect to the outrage upon the messenger, were three:

1st. That Hajee Khan, who grossly ill-treated the man, should on that account be dismissed from his post in the Persian army.

2nd. That Hajee Meerza Aghassee, who with his own mouth ordered the messenger to be put into confinement, though he knew that the man was a servant of the British Mission, should make a written, and not a verbal, apology to the British Minister.

3rd. That in order to prevent the recurrence of similar outrages in future, the Shah should issue and publish a firmaun, in a form which was specified by Sir John McNeill, assuring protection to all persons, whether

British, Persian, or others, who may be employed in the service of the British Mission.

Now, with respect to the first demand, the Persian Government evaded a compliance with it, by dismissing Hajee Khan for other offences of a military nature, without including in the charges for which he was dismissed, the violence which he was guilty of towards the British messenger.

Her Majesty's Government consider this proceeding on the part of the Persian Government, as very disrespectful to Great Britain, and as forming part of a system which for some time past appears to have been studiously pursued by the Persian Government, to take every opportunity of proving by its acts, how little it values the esteem and friendship of England.

But Hajee Khan has been dismissed, and no longer holds a command in the Persian army; and Her Majesty's Government do not think it necessary that he should be reinstated, merely for the purpose that he might be dismissed a second time; therefore, there is an end of the first demand of the British Government. But the way in which the Persian Government has evaded a compliance with that demand, obliges the British Government to insist still more strongly upon the second and third demands.

Now, with respect to the second demand, which was that a written, and not a verbal, apology should be made by the Hajee; it appears that the Shah prefers making the written apology himself, by a letter from himself to the Queen. To such a course Her Majesty's Government can have no objection: and whenever Hoossein Khan, or any other Envoy from Persia, shall present a letter from the Shah to the Queen, containing a suitable expression of His Persian Majesty's regret at what happened in the case of the messenger, and an assurance that no similar thing shall ever happen again, such letter will be accepted by the British Government as satisfying the demand for a written apology; but such letter ought not to contain any matter which could render necessary a controversial reply; and Viscount Palmerston must remind Hoossein Khan that he pointed out at their interview, that the letter which Hoossein Khan brought from the Shah, contained, besides the apology, other matters which prevented Viscount Palmerston from laying it before the Queen. For, in the first place, it stated that the first knowledge which the Shah had, that any coldness existed between the Governments of England and Persia, was derived from letters which the Shah had received from Hoossein Khan, after the Khan had set out on his journey. Whereas it is well known, that long before Hoossein Khan set out from Persia, Sir John McNeill and Colonel Stoddart had had a correspondence, and frequent personal communications with the Persian Government on these matters; and the Persian Government not only knew full well that the friendly relations between the two countries had ceased, but was also perfectly well informed of the causes which had led to the rupture.

In the next place, the letter of the Shah implied that Sir John McNeill's conduct was the cause of the rupture between the two Governments: whereas, on the contrary, that rupture has been caused by the conduct of the Government of Persia; and the conduct of Sir John McNeill has been entirely approved by the British Government; and was either prescribed to him beforehand by instructions from home, or was sanctioned afterwards by the approbation of the British Government.

Thirdly, the letter of the Shah contained an erroneous statement of what happened to the messenger, and denied that anything wrong had been done to him; but the British Government cannot receive an apology accompanied by such a denial; and why should the Persian Government make any apology at all, if nothing wrong was done?

If the letter of the Shah had simply contained the expression of his regret, the letter would have been accepted as a sufficient apology; but even in that case, the third demand would have remained uncomplied with; and no Persian Envoy can be received at this Court, nor can the British Mission go back to Tehran, until Her Majesty's Government shall have been informed that a proper firman has actually been published in Persia, in conformity with the third demand made by Sir John

McNeill; and until a copy of such firmaun shall have been sent to them. This is absolutely necessary, in order that the British Mission may be able, on its return to Persia, to perform efficiently its duties towards the British Crown.

But the outrage on the messenger was not the only, nor the most important cause of rupture between the two Governments. It is needless for Viscount Palmerston to remind Hoossein Khan of all that passed between the British Mission and the Persian Government, upon the subject of the invasion of the territory of Herat by the Persians, and upon the designs of Persia to conquer Affghanistan.

The Persian Government cannot have forgotten what then passed, and must remember the promise made by the Shah, that he would retire from the territory of Herat, and bring his army back into Persia. But this promise has hitherto been only performed in part. It is true that the Persian army gave up the siege of Herat; but Persian garrisons still retain possession of Ghorian, and of some other places in Affghanistan; and it is necessary that Ghorian, and those other places, should be evacuated by the Persians, before the relations between Persia and Great Britain can be replaced upon their former footing of friendship.

But, besides these matters, there are some others of smaller importance, upon which the British Government require satisfaction; and upon which the Persian Government, if it is disposed to recover the friendship of England, can have no difficulty in affording the satisfaction demanded.

In the first place, the British Government have to complain of an attempt made by Major-General Semino, a French officer in the Persian service, to seize a house which the Shah had placed at the disposal of Major Todd, and which adjoined the garden of the house of the British Mission at Tehran; and for this outrage Colonel Sheil has been directed to demand a written and formal apology from the Persian Government.

In the next place, in addition to the complaints which Sir John McNeill was instructed to make while in Persia, respecting the conduct of the Persian authorities at Bushire, the British Government have to complain of an outrage committed by the authorities of that place in the month of November last, on the person and property of the broker of the British Residency; for which outrage Colonel Sheil has been directed to demand satisfaction, and to require that the persons concerned in it should be punished.

Besides this, Her Majesty's Government have recently been informed, that the British Admiral commanding in the Eastern Seas, landed a short time ago at Bushire, and had a friendly meeting with the Governor of the town; but the Governor insisted that the Admiral, on his return to his ship, should embark at the Custom-house Quay, which was an improper place, instead of permitting him to embark at the quay opposite the Residency, which was the proper place for his boat to come to; and Her Majesty's Government have learnt with regret and astonishment, that the Admiral having refused to submit to this indignity, and having determined to embark at the same place at which he had landed, the Governor of Bushire employed force in order to prevent him from so doing; and the Admiral and his officers were not only assaulted with stones by the mob, but were fired at by troops acting under the orders of the Governor. Her Majesty's Government expect that this Governor be removed from his command; and that the Persian Government shall make it publicly known that he has been removed because of his misconduct on this occasion.

Viscount Palmerston has also further to mention, that there is a considerable sum due to Sir Henry Bethune, on account of money advanced by him to complete and bring into operation, some iron-works which he has established for the Shah in Karadagh. But as the Persian Government is at this moment in possession of these iron-works, and is using them, Her Majesty's Government cannot for a moment doubt that the Shah's own sense of justice will induce him spontaneously, and without delay, to repay to Sir Henry Bethune all the money which Sir Henry has at different times advanced on this account; especially as the Shah, in the month of August, 1836, addressed to Sir Henry Bethune a

firmaun, engaging to pay the whole expenses of the establishment brought by Sir Henry from England; and again, in the month of March, 1838, acknowledged, in another firmaun, the justice of Sir Henry's claims on this account; and stated that Kahraman Meerza, the Shah's brother, had been enjoined by the Shah to provide the requisite funds for the service. But, although Kahraman Meerza inspected the works in the month of May, 1838, and addressed a rukum to Sir Henry Bethune, stating that Sir Henry had faithfully fulfilled all his promises and agreements respecting the foundery, nevertheless, Sir Henry Bethune has not received the payment which was due to him.

There are also some small sums due to the British officers sent to Persia to assist in instructing the Persian troops, and Her Majesty's Government feel equally confident that those sums will at once be paid.

The Persian Government, of course, does not forget that Persia is bound to make a Commercial Treaty with Great Britain; and a Treaty of this kind was prepared by Sir John McNeill, and was understood to have been agreed to by the Shah: Her Majesty's Government would therefore expect that the signature of that Treaty should accompany the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

There is only one other point in Hoossein Khan's letter of the 21st of June, which Viscount Palmerston has not touched upon; and that is, his assertion that no Russian officer was employed in the Persian army, or had any thing to do with the siege of Herat. In reply to this, Viscount Palmerston would beg to say, that without stopping to inquire whether M. Borowski was or was not considered by the Emperor of Russia as a Russian subject, it is a well-known fact that Count Simonich and the other members of his Mission, when they were at the Camp before Herat, gave to the Shah such assistance and military advice as they thought would be most useful to him; this fact has been distinctly admitted by Count Nesselrode, in a despatch which was communicated to Her Majesty's Government; and, therefore, when Hoossein Khan says that the members of the Russian Mission did not interfere with the siege, or with the operations of the Persian troops, it appears that his Government has not fully informed him as to those matters.

Hoossein Khan will perceive from what has been now stated, that the demands which the British Government makes on that of Persia, are these:—

First. That a written apology shall be made to the British Government for what happened with regard to the British Messenger; that apology should not be accompanied by any objectionable matter, and might be made either by the Prime Minister, the Hajee, or, if the Shah prefers it, by a letter from the Shah to the Queen.

Secondly. That a firmaun shall be published in Persia, and a copy of it be communicated to the British Government, assuring protection to all persons, whether British, Persian, or others, who may be employed in the service of the British Mission. This firmaun to be in conformity with what was stated in Sir John McNeill's Memorandum, given to the Shah on the 4th of June, 1838.

Thirdly. That Ghorian and the other places in Affghanistan which have been occupied by the Persian garrisons, shall be evacuated by the Persian troops, and be restored to the Affghans.

Fourthly. That a written apology shall be made by the Persian Government for the attempt made by Major-General Semino to seize the house at Tehran, which the Shah had placed at the disposal of Major Todd.

Fifthly. That all persons concerned in the outrage committed on the person and property of the broker of the British Residency at Bushire, in the month of November last, shall be punished.

Sixthly. That the Governor of Bushire, who was guilty of the affront lately offered to Sir F. Maitland, the British Admiral, shall be removed from his command, and that the reason of his removal shall be publicly made known by the Persian Government.

Seventhly. That the claims of Sir Henry Bethune, on account of the iron-works in Karadagh, shall be liquidated.

Eighthly. That the sums due to the British officers shall be paid.
Ninthly. That the signature of a Commercial Treaty between Great Britain and Persia, shall accompany the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the two States.

Viscount Palmerston has further to state, that Colonel Sheil, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, has been ordered to remain at Erzerum in order to be at hand to receive any communication which the Persian Government may have to make to that of Great Britain; and in conclusion, Viscount Palmerston begs to remark, that Hoossein Khan, in his letter to Viscount Palmerston, gives the Queen the inferior title of Malikeh, instead of the title of Padshah, which properly belongs to Her Majesty, and which the British Government expect to be used in any official communication which they may receive from the Government of Persia.

Stanhope Street, July 11, 1839.

No. 48.

Memorandum of the Substance of a Conference between Viscount Palmerston and Hoossein Khan, held in Stanhope Street, July 13, 1839.

LORD PALMERSTON opened the conference by observing, that he was ready to listen to anything that Hoossein Khan might have further to say on the subject of his mission. Hoossein Khan commenced with disclaiming all intention or idea of disrespect, in using the word Malikeh, instead of Padshah, as title of the Queen of England, in his communications with the British Government. Malikeh, he said, was a higher title than Padshah; and, besides, it served more correctly to translate the word Queen, used by ourselves, being the feminine of Malek, a King; a title, the Khan remarked, applied to God, and therefore higher than Padshah, which was only applied to man. The Khan produced a Persian dictionary, in order to prove these assertions.

Lord Palmerston, however, on looking at the dictionary, pointed out that Malek was a term or title which had been applied by the Kings of Egypt to their governors-general and higher officers. His Lordship remarked, that in regard to the Sovereign of England, we recognise no distinction of sex; that the Turks and Persians themselves had applied the term Padshah to the Empress Catherine of Russia; that the Turks applied it to Her present Majesty; and that there could be no doubt of its being the proper term to be used in addressing the Sovereign of England. The Khan insisted that he was right, that Malikeh was the correct word for Queen; that the Persian term commonly used for the Empress Catherine, whom they called Khoursheed Koolla, had been Imperatrice; but that if the English Government desired it, the Persian Government would use the word Padshah in future; all he wanted, was to prove that *he* meant no offence in using the other. Lord Palmerston professed himself satisfied of that, but contended, that Padshah was the proper title for a Queen Regnant, and that Malikeh was applicable to a Queen Consort. The Khan then went on to other matters.

He observed, that some errors affecting the sense had been made, in translating some of the papers he had given in. That in that translation, the Shah had been made to say, that he had for the first time heard of the disagreement existing between England and Persia, by a communication from Hoossein Khan, made from some point in his journey towards this country. Now, this passage, the Khan said, was not correctly translated. The true meaning was merely an acknowledgment of having then heard the information from the Khan, but not stating it to be for the first time; but on the Persian paper being produced, it certainly appeared, as Meerza Ibrahim declared, to bear that interpretation. The Khan, thus pressed, said that there could be no doubt of the Shah having known of the disagreement between England and himself; but that, having conceded all the demands made by her Minister, he regarded the former friendly intercourse as having been renewed, and, therefore, treated the intelligence conveyed by the letters of the Khan as new to him. All that Mr. McNeill had required, had been agreed to, and granted, by His Majesty.

Lord Palmerston denied that the demands made had been conceded; and the Khan entered into a long discussion on each of them, which was little more than a repetition of what passed in the first conference. First, he observed, that we had required the dismissal of the Governor of Bushire, on account of his threatening letter to the British Resident there, and his insults to the Mission. The Shah had immediately desired inquiry to be made into that affair; but the report of it could not reach His Majesty under three or four months. From the length of time that thus necessarily elapsed, Mr. McNeill believed that his demand had been neglected; in the mean time, Sheik Nassir ran away, and was at Karrak with the English. Lord Palmerston observed, that as the Sheik had run away, there was no more to be said regarding him.

"Then," observed the Khan, "you complained to His Majesty against the person who had imprisoned and ill-treated the English messenger—against Hajee Khan; you required that he should be dismissed. Well, he has been dismissed." "Yes," replied his Lordship, "but not for that fault; now we required, that all Persia should be made aware that the dismissal was for that offence." "It is true," observed the Khan, "that he had been guilty of other faults; but when his sword was taken from his side, he was told that one of his offences, and that a very grave one, was his conduct to the English messenger."

"Of that," remarked his Lordship, "we have no proof; but the man has been dismissed; and this being the case, the Persian Government has put it out of its own power to comply with our requirement; it is, therefore, the more necessary that they should do what remains. We required an apology from Hajee Meerza Aghassee." "That," said the Khan, "would have been made; you required a verbal apology, and the Meerza was on the way to make it to Mr. McNeill, when that gentleman sent him word, that, if he came, he could not be received."

"You mistake," replied Lord Palmerston; "we have it under Meerza Ali's own hand and seal, that for Hajee Meerza Aghassee to make an apology, was out of the question." "God forbid," he says, "that the Hajee should make an apology; Mr. McNeill rather owes him one." "Aye," replied the Khan, "but that was after he had been refused admittance by Mr. McNeill, when on his way to that gentleman's tent to make a verbal apology. In your memorandum, you now require a written one." "Well," replied Lord Palmerston, "it should be a written one, and a written one we must have."

This point was stoutly debated by the Khan, who, however, at length appeared to concede it: and Lord Palmerston next came to the point of the firmaun of protection to all persons connected with the British Mission, whether English or natives, and which it was required should be read in the mosques and duly published through the realm. The Khan stickled a good deal about this; but in the end pledged himself that such a firmaun should be granted; and at a subsequent part of the conference said, that copies should be sent to the four great divisions (mamlekets) of the kingdom—Azerbaijan, Khorassan, Fars, Mazanderan, and Irak. There was also some further dispute about this firmaun, from a notion the Khan imbibed, or pretended to imbibe, that it was meant it should embody a public recantation of all the Shah's acts against the English nation; a measure which would, he said, degrade His Majesty in the eyes of his subjects. But it was explained to him, that no such recantation was required in the firmaun. The apology to be written either from His Majesty to the Queen of England, or from Hajee Meerza Aghassee, as Prime Minister, to Lord Palmerston, was to be in form of a letter, merely stating, that "I regret much the occurrences that have taken place with respect to the messenger, and will do my best to prevent the like from ever happening again."

There was a great deal of desultory discussion on these several points, the Khan repeatedly denying the existence of any grounds for demanding satisfaction, yet, as repeatedly asserting that it had been given—that every thing required had been conceded. At length, Lord Palmerston observed, that there could be no use in further discussion on these old affairs, they had better proceed to other matters. The Khan eagerly caught at this; observed, that what had passed could not be recalled, it was better to drop it altogether; and proposed that full powers, (such, he said, as *he* himself had,) should be immediately sent to Colonel Sheil, to enable him to make a final arrangement of all affairs; while he, the Khan, on his part, should write by the same messenger to His Majesty, requesting him to send a proper person to conduct the Colonel back to Tehran.

He hoped his Lordship would not insist strictly on all that he had demanded, and which the Shah could not concede without being degraded in the eyes of his people; but that each party should abate a little of their demands, by which means an adjustment might be sooner arrived at. He trusted that the letter of congratulation which had been written to Her Majesty before the occurrence of the late misunderstanding, and the presents of which he was the bearer, from the Shah, might still be presented to Her Majesty—these were free from offence. “And I,” said the Khan, “will write the required apology, which my full powers enable me to do, and thus advances towards a reconciliation will have been made on both sides.”

Lord Palmerston replied, that although he had said they had better leave these old matters alone at this time, his meaning was by no means that they should be lost sight of or abandoned; on the contrary, the demands made must all be complied with; and if His Majesty was disposed sincerely to a reconciliation, it was by a ready compliance with them that this should be shown; the more trifling they were, the easier to be complied with. As to the letter of congratulation to the Queen on her accession, and the presents, had they arrived before the causes of disunion had arisen, they would have been graciously received, but such not having been the case, they could not now be presented to Her Majesty.

The Khan remarked, that the Shah would be much mortified and displeased at this rejection; but finding that pressing the point further was fruitless, he commenced a long harangue, of which the object was to prove the existence of the most friendly dispositions in the mind of the Shah towards the English Government and nation. The language of the Shah, he said, was as follows:—“Persia has been long on the best of terms with England, we know that England has no hostile views towards us,—we have frequently benefited from our connexion with England, and hope to do so again and again.

“The Shah,” continued the Khan, “will never let go the hope of British friendship, although she took advantage of Persia’s distress to deprive her of the subsidy she had promised by Treaty to enable Persia to resist foreign aggression.”

To all this, Lord Palmerston replied, that he could not pretend to deny the good dispositions of the Shah; we could not look into the heart of man, and read what might be passing there; but in these countries, it was usual to regard the King and his Government as one; the acts of the one were, in fact, the acts of the other; and as acts, and not words, were the only means by which we could judge of a man’s dispositions, so we had but this rule to judge of the Shah’s, that is the Persian Government’s, dispositions towards England. Since His Majesty’s accession, what had been the tenor of his conduct to us? One continued series of unfriendly acts towards England. With respect to the Khan’s assertion, that it is for the interests of Persia to be united with England,—Lord Palmerston said it sometimes happened—why he could not say—but it did happen, that Sovereigns and Governments were seen to act in a manner inconsistent with the obvious interests of their country: thus had Persia done on many occasions; witness her most improvident war with Russia about a worthless patch of land, and in direct opposition to English counsels. The present Shah owed much to England; even his accession to his throne, which had been secured to him by the exertions of her officers, at a time when certainly he had no adequate resources of his own; yet from that time his behaviour had become gradually more and more unfriendly to England.

The British Government, in assisting Persia, sought only to render her independent; Britain had no desire to see Persia dependent on any one; yet the Shah has become cold and even insulting to England. England has no wish that Persia should quarrel with Russia; quite the contrary, England wishes Persia to be on good terms with Russia; but to be on equally good terms with England also. In former times the advice of the English Minister was received with attention and respect; but not so since the accession of Mahommed Shah.

Lord Palmerston said that he was desirous to send back the British Mission to Persia, provided it was to be properly respected; but he could not, and would not do so, until some security should have been given for its being well received and treated with fitting attention. For some years back it had been pointedly neglected, trifled with, and insulted, with the intention of showing all the world that England was lightly esteemed. This is a mode of treatment to which England will not submit. Now, if the Shah did really

desire to renew his friendly relations with England, we must have proof of his sincerity before consenting to do so. This proof should be his compliance with the requirements and stipulations now made. This compliance involved no humiliation, it was but the performance of acts of justice, which were due from His Majesty under any circumstances; acts that would tend to do him honour. What in fact did they amount to—an apology, the expression of regret for what had occurred, from His Majesty or his Prime Minister, and an assurance that the like should be prevented in future; and a firman of protection for those, who by the laws and usages of nations are entitled to enjoy such protection.

But there was a far more important point to be arranged. The Shah had agreed to retire with his forces from Herat, and so far he had complied; but his troops still remained at Ghorian; now Ghorian must be delivered up to Kamran. The Indian Government was resolved to have it so. The Khan to this replied with much warmth, that Ghorian was not in Affghanistan, it was Persian soil. Lord Palmerston denied this. His Lordship declined going back to ancient times when Persia may have possessed great part of Affghanistan for a period, while, on the other hand, the Affghans in former periods possessed parts of Persia. He knew that Persia claimed the country as far as Ghizni. Now, that pretension would include Kandahar and Cabool as well as Ghizni. That was quite beyond the present question. In treating of a country that had been constantly changing hands, late events were all that could be taken into consideration. To whom did Ghorian belong when the present king came to the throne? What was the *status quo* in 1834? for that was what we should hold to; and to the justice of this, Count Pozzo di Borgo had entirely assented.

The Khan said, that the fort of Ghorian had been built by Mahommed Khan, of Toorbut, (Karâwee); and he appealed to the writer of this, to say, whether he was not a Persian? The writer replied, that when Mahommed Khan built Ghorian, he was in rebellion against Futteh Ali Shah. "Aye," remarked Lord Palmerston, "the country was, in fact, in a state of extreme disturbance, constantly changing hands; but, in point of fact, Ghorian belongs to Herat, and must be given up."

The writer forgets the exact turn of discourse which brought the Affghan Articles of the Treaty with Persia in question; but the Khan charged the English with a breach of these Articles, in interfering in the present quarrel between the Persians and Affghans. Lord Palmerston repudiated this charge. These Articles applied to a state of things quite different from the present. So long as there had been merely a question of dispute between Persia and some of the Affghan States, a matter which could not affect the interests of Great Britain, nor even the independent existence of the Affghan nation, England would never have interfered; but when we find Persia bent upon conquering Affghanistan, and not only so, but doing it with foreign money, and for foreign purposes, the case becomes greatly altered. Such an approach to her Indian territories cannot be seen by Great Britain with indifference; and it became imperative on her to interfere.

The Khan protested against the operation of any foreign influence in the matter. The object of the Shah was to check the encroachments of the Affghans, who pillaged the Persian territories and carried off a number of slaves. "Yes," replied Lord Palmerston, "such was your first profession; but Sir John McNeill offered you, on the part of Herat, a Treaty, which would have given you full security on that matter; but, since then, you have sought to conquer Herat—to annex it to the Persian dominions; and not only that, but you lay claim to the Sovereignty of all Affghanistan; none of these things can we admit of."

"But," replied the Khan, "this is precisely what you are doing yourselves. Here are you, contrary to the Articles of non-intervention in the Treaty, objecting to our sending our troops to reduce Herat, yet you are yourselves sending an army to conquer Affghanistan."

"My reply to that," said Lord Palmerston, "is this: we never should have thought of meddling with Affghanistan, had not Persia begun to do so. Our wish was to see Affghanistan independent; Persia said no; We mean to conquer it; and she proceeded to do so. Now England is not blind; we see what all this means, and will not permit it. Therefore, we say, Affghanistan shall be English."

But, after all, we do not propose conquering it for ourselves. The former and legitimate Sovereign of the country, and an old friend of ours, Shah Shoojah, some years ago requested our assistance to reinstate him on his throne. We said we will have nothing to do in the business, settle these matters among yourselves. He tried, but was finally beaten, and forced to fly to our territories, where he lived under our protection. But, now, since the independence of Affghanistan has been attacked by Persia, and she makes Treaties with Kandahar and Cabool, guaranteed by Russian Envoys, we have resolved to assist Shah Shoojah to remount his own throne; and he shall be the Sovereign, instead of Dost Mahomed and the Kandahar chiefs. As soon as Shoojah shall be firm on his throne, our army will retire. In the same way you must give up and retire from Ghorian.

The Khan again repelled with much warmth the charge of the Shah's acting under foreign influence, or with foreign assistance in the expedition against Herat. The Russian Ambassador was not, he said, with the army until Mr. McNeill went there. Their only object in keeping Ghorian is the preservation of their frontier from Affghan aggression. Our interference in the business he asserted to be decidedly against Treaty.

Lord Palmerston denied it again, referring to what he had already said on the subject. But it was moreover in direct accordance with the spirit of the Treaty, which admitted of our interference at the call of both parties; now both parties had solicited our intervention. This the Khan denied. Lord Palmerston asserted that such was the case: that even when at Tehran Mr. McNeill had been requested to mediate. Nay, more, that the Shah had afterwards offered to invest him with powers equal to those given by Prince Kamran, in order to bring matters to an understanding. In talking on this subject, the Khan at length admitted that there had been some progress made towards a negotiation, which, however, had been broken off. "Yes," said Lord Palmerston, "but it was renewed at Herat."—"Aye," interrupted the Khan, "where Mr. McNeill had no right to go. He went there, expressly against the desire of His Majesty; it was a direct breach of the Treaty; he had no right to go there."—"He had a perfect right to go there," replied his Lordship; "nay, more, as Minister of England, it was his bounden duty to remain at the Shah's court, and to follow the Shah wherever he should go."—"That may be," replied the Khan, "but not beyond the Persian territories." Here the Khan appeared to imagine that Lord Palmerston had admitted the Persian camp before Herat to be in the Persian territories, and with some triumph he affected to nail that admission; but he did not persist, and dropped the subject. "Certainly," replied Lord Palmerston, "wherever His Majesty might go. And the King having authorized him to conclude a Treaty with the Prince of Herat, he did frame a very equitable one, to which His Majesty assented, though he afterwards retracted."

"Aye," replied the Khan, returning to his old position, "but still he had violated the Treaty by coming to camp." He then continued insisting, in various forms, on this alleged breach of Treaty, coming over and over the same ground, and entering at large into the nature of the Affghan Articles of Mr. Ellis's Treaty; and dissecting, according to his own fashion, the whole of our conduct from first to last. Lord Palmerston went over this ground, observing, that from the first we had protested against this intended conquest of Herat, particularly, undertaken, as it was, at the instigation of foreign agents.

"But I deny all this," said the Khan; "it is fact nevertheless," said Lord Palmerston, "the proofs are palpable, unquestionable. If you had read these papers (those printed for Parliament) you would see and feel that there is no denying it. Russia herself has advised the Shah to comply with the English demands for reparation."—"Well," replied the Khan, "you say all this, but we have our story to tell also; you believe what Russia says; you are satisfied with her explanations; yet you refuse credit to the Shah's letters, and will not accept of his explanations."

Lord Palmerston said that England had complained of the conduct of certain Russian Ministers and Agents. Russia declared they had exceeded their commissions and recalled them, protesting against the existence of any inimical intention; would Persia do as much? The Governor of Tehran had insulted the English by putting a stranger into Major Todd's house by force; we required the punishment of this Governor; would he be dismissed or punished? One Governor had fled from Bushire, it is true; but his successor had permitted the stores of a broker, who was under English protection, to be broken into, and his property to be destroyed; would satisfaction be given?

His Lordship took occasion to state, very fully, the nature of the insult offered to Sir Frederick Maitland and the Resident at Bushire, and expressed his conviction that there was not only insult, but base treachery in the conduct of the Governor on that occasion; for had the Admiral and his officers allowed themselves to be persuaded to walk through the narrow streets of Bushire, from the Residency to the place where they were directed to embark, they would, his Lordship firmly believes, have been attacked and perhaps murdered by the populace; while the raising breastworks to fire at him on his embarkation, after the Governor had received him with the semblance of friendship, and actually firing at him and his officers, was a basely treacherous act.

The Khan, though he made many remarks as his Lordship proceeded, said that not being cognizant of the facts, he could give no reply; the thing might be truly or falsely stated; no doubt it would be inquired into, and when the other side should have been heard, the truth would be known. Lord Palmerston observed, that this was just the mode adopted of late by the Persian authorities, in regard to the complaints of English subjects, or of the Government, even when they rested on plain matters of fact; these were usually denied. An inquiry was promised, which served only to consume time, and always came to nothing: this would not do. The Khan repeated his ignorance of this affair, and his consequent want of power to say anything regarding it. His Lordship said he knew that; and, therefore, left the matter to be settled elsewhere.

The foregoing conversation was swelled out on the part of the Khan, with much repetition and irrelevant argumentation, with occasionally some shrewd remarks; till at length, Lord Palmerston, taking a map of Central Asia, and opening it, showed it to the Khan, and observed that the meaning and ultimatum of Great Britain was this. Here was India; here Russia; here Persia and Affghanistan between them, through which, were Russia disposed to advance, her way must lie. Whatever might be the nature of the relations between England and Russia, the former considered it expedient that the latter should be prevented from coming into closer contact with the frontier of British India. For many years, while the Persian Government remained sincerely attached to England, the British Government viewed her as a good and sufficient bulwark, and desired to maintain her independence; and the condition of Affghanistan was comparatively indifferent to England; but of late years, the independence of Affghanistan has become more necessary to Great Britain, and she is resolved to maintain it. For as things are situated, should Persia succeed in reducing Affghanistan, England could only regard it as a measure that would open a road to the Indus; that was an event that could not be permitted.

Lord Palmerston then began once more to recapitulate the requirements of the British Government; which led to a reiteration of the Khan's denials of all injury, and assertions of all possible satisfaction having been granted. His Lordship remarked, that if the points had already been granted, there would be the less difficulty in complying with the form of acquiescence, now required by the British Government. The Khan complained of the length of the memorandum, which had been handed to him in reply to his communications, and begged that his Lordship would just put down, in four lines, upon a sheet of paper, in his own hand, the heads of what was required.

Lord Palmerston pointed out, that the whole was contained in two or three pages at the end of the paper, and could not be more concisely stated. There was no getting over any of them, and they must be complied with. The alternative for Persia was simple: comply with the demands of England; give the required reparation for what has passed; adopt a new line of conduct in future; evacuate Ghorian; encroach not on Affghan independence; and England will renew her amicable relations with you. Reject these terms, and you lose the friendship of England.

In discussing these several points, the claims of Sir Henry Bethune on the Persian Government were again canvassed. The Khan denied his having any; and challenged him to produce a single voucher of debt, or a firmaun authorizing him to incur any expense. Lord Palmerston again went through the state of the case; pointed out the orders under which Sir Henry took out miners and operatives, whom he paid out of his own pocket; said that either the furnaces and works he had constructed were done by the Shah's order, and, therefore, to be paid for by His Majesty; or they were the property of Sir Henry,

who had constructed them; and that the Shah, of course, ought to give them up to Sir Henry, and to pay for all materials supplied from them. The Khan said, that whatever Sir Henry could produce orders or vouchers for, should certainly be paid; but he defied him to produce either. He again brought forward the case of the demands of the Persian Government on a British merchant. Lord Palmerston pointed out, that the cases were entirely dissimilar; that the claim of Sir Henry Bethune was that of a British subject upon the Persian Government, and the Persian Government is able to pay; that the claim of the Persian Government is against an individual British subject; and that this individual is a bankrupt, and, therefore, unable to pay; and that as the English Government was no party to the transaction, there is no reason why it should pay for that private individual. The Khan admitted, that the cases were not quite parallel, but said, that the refusal of the British Government to interfere in forcing payment from the person in question, would operate greatly against the Commercial Treaty we were so desirous of concluding with Persia. It was pointed out to him, that in either country, the only legitimate course for obtaining redress or payment of debts, was by appeal to the laws of the land; that, unless in cases where the Government guaranteed a transaction with a subject, it could not be called upon to make good losses; and that, as to the Commercial Treaty, we sought no more than to be put on an equality with the most favored nations.

"But," said the Khan, "we have an actual claim upon the English Government, to the amount of 50,000 tomauns, that remains unpaid of the sum promised in compensation for doing away the subsidizing articles of Ellis's Treaty." This, the Khan insisted, was 250,000 tomauns, while only 200,000 had been paid to Persia.

Lord Palmerston explained that to be an error. The sum to be paid to Persia was 200,000 tomauns; but when, in 1828, the Persian Government was pushed for money to pay Russia, and required more than the 200,000 tomauns, then paid by Sir J. Macdonald, that gentleman had come forward, in their distress, with a pledge for 50,000 tomauns more, in favor of the Persian Government; but it was no debt: it was money, or rather credit, lent to Persia, to help her out of her temporary difficulty. This was shown on the face of the Treaty itself, which Lord Palmerston produced. But the Khan denied the authenticity of the printed copy, and asserted, that vouchers of the debt are extant in Persia.

The Khan next brought forward the still heavier, and often-urged, claim of 600,000 tomauns, being three years' subsidy alleged to be due during the war of Persia with Russia, before the abrogation of the subsidizing clauses of the Treaty. He insisted, that, by Treaty, we were bound to pay this. Lord Palmerston adverted to the antiquated nature of this claim, which had been resisted at the time, and, as he considered, rightly, by former Governments, because the clauses in question limited the right to subsidy to cases when the war, that is, actual aggression by force of arms, should have been made upon Persia, after the use, on the part of England, of all possible endeavours to prevent it, which, of course, implied an appeal to the good offices of England as mediatrix. Now, in the case in question, the Persian Government had been the aggressor, in spite of the remonstrances of the English Envoy.

The Russians had only occupied a small tract of disputed ground; this was fair subject for mediation—not for war.

The Khan endeavoured to prove, that the *casus belli* was made out whenever a Russian put his foot on Persian territory; that, he alleged, was, by the Treaty, a state of war; but on reference to the Treaty itself, no such definition could be found; on which, as in a former case, he pronounced it to be a false copy.

The discussion on this point was long. Lord Palmerston at last put an end to it by observing, that all those things might possibly form subjects of discussion hereafter, when friendly intercourse should have been renewed; but not now.

The Khan then made a movement to retire, requesting Lord Palmerston to excuse the bootless trouble he had given. Lord Palmerston assured him, that should the long discussion that had taken place tend at all to promote a renewal of amicable relations between the countries, he should consider the time well bestowed; and thus terminated the conference, which lasted very nearly four hours.

(Signed)

JAMES B. FRASER.

No. 49.

Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, July 13, 1839.

SINCE my interview with Hoossein Khan on the 19th of June, I have received from him the two letters, of which I inclose translations*, and I have sent to him a memorandum specifying the demands which Great Britain has to make on Persia, of which I also inclose a copy†.

I have to instruct you to cause this memorandum to be carefully translated into Persian, and to forward it with a copy of the original to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, accompanied with a letter from yourself stating that you have been instructed to do so, in order to ensure an accurate translation of the document being placed before the Persian Government.

No. 50.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 13.)

My Lord,

Erzeroom, May 21, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to transmit copies of the letters which, agreeably to the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's despatches of the 9th of March, I have addressed to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, demanding apologies for the forcible occupation by M. Semino of Major Todd's house, and the ill-treatment of the banker attached to the Residency at Bushire.

I entertain slight expectation that satisfaction will be given by the Persian Government on either of these points. The demand on the Prime Minister personally for an apology is likely to be met by a declaration, that he is a private individual totally unconnected with the Government; while satisfaction for the outrage on the banker will probably be evaded in the manner to which the Persian Government has hitherto resorted in all questions regarding Bushire, by a promise of enquiry, not to be carried into execution.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Meerza Massood.

Sir,

*Erzeroom, April 23, 1839.
Sefter 10, 1255.*

HER Britannic Majesty's Government has been made acquainted with the particulars attending the forcible entrance into and occupation during my late residence at Tehran, by M. Semino, of the house which Major Todd, by permission of His Majesty the Shah, had been in the habit of occupying, and which, during the absence of that officer, was under the charge of his Excellency Mr. McNeill, Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary.

Her Britannic Majesty's Government regard this transaction as one for which reparation is indispensable.

His Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee is acquainted with all the details of this occurrence, as they were explained by me to him in person, and it will not therefore have escaped his Excellency's recollection that Major Todd's dwelling was entered by ascending over the roof, and that it remained in the possession of M. Semino during twenty-four hours.

M. Semino's declaration to me was, that in possessing himself of Major Todd's house, he had acted with the sanction of His Persian Majesty's

* See pages 48, 52.

† See page 53.

Government, by whom that dwelling had been appropriated for his residence; but whether this gentleman's statement be well founded, or whether it be incorrect, it makes no difference in the principle on which satisfaction is demanded, for being in the service of His Majesty the Shah, the Persian Government becomes responsible for his conduct.

I have, therefore, the honor to inform your Excellency that I have been directed by Her Britannic Majesty's Government to demand a written and formal apology from his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee for the affront which has been committed towards the British Government by the unwarrantable conduct of a person in the service of His Majesty the Shah.

I avail myself of this opportunity to assure your Excellency of the distinguished consideration with which I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Meerza Massood.

Sir,

Erzeroom, April 24, 1839.
Sefter 11, 1255.

I HAVE been directed by Her Britannic Majesty's Government to make to the Persian Government the following communication.

In the month of November last (Shaban, 1254,) a disturbance having taken place in the town of Bushire, in consequence of a disagreement between the Governor and the inhabitants, and in which the Cazee Sheik Hoossein took an active share, considerable injury was inflicted on the person and property of a dependent of the British Residency in that town. At the instigation of Sheik Hoossein, the rabble of Bushire, led on by the slaves of the Cazee and by a certain Syud Ali, proceeded to the quarter of the Jews, for the purpose of destroying the wine and spirits belonging to that class of persons; among others the house of a Jew named Elias, the Shroff of the British Residency, was forcibly entered, and wine and spirits to the value of forty or fifty toman, which were packed for exportation, were destroyed, and the Shroff himself so beaten and maltreated that he was forced to take refuge in the British Residency in fear of his life.

These circumstances were fully reported by the Resident at Bushire to Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary his Excellency Mr. McNeill, by whom they had been communicated to Her Britannic Majesty's Government; and the repeated applications for redress by the Resident at Bushire, to the Prince Governor of Fars, having proved altogether unavailing, it becomes necessary that the demand for satisfaction should be directed to the Persian Government itself.

Her Britannic Majesty's Government is not ignorant that on other occasions persons in the employment of the British Residency have suffered indignity from some of the inhabitants of Bushire, particularly through the misconduct of the individuals above mentioned, Sheik Hoossein and Syud Ali, and if the British Government failed to press on the Persian Government the punishment of these persons, it was because it hoped that forbearance would be an inducement to the Government of His Majesty the Shah to adopt precautionary measures for preventing the recurrence of similar outrages.

But these expectations having been disappointed, the British Government can no longer delay to use means for insuring effectual protection to the persons in its employment, and which, no doubt, it will be the desire of the Persian Government to afford.

I have the honor to inform your Excellency, that I have been directed by Her Britannic Majesty's Government to demand from the Persian Government an apology for the outrage, the particulars of which have been detailed, and the punishment of the persons implicated in it.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JUSTIN SHEIL.

No. 51.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 13.)

(Extract.)

Erzerum, May 26, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a letter which I received last night from the Resident at Bushire, accompanied by copies, also inclosed, of two letters, dated the 2nd and 11th of April, from that gentleman to the Secret Committee, detailing the circumstances attending a collision between the boats of Her Majesty's ship "Wellesley" and the garrison of Bushire, and announcing the departure of the Resident from that City to the Island of Karrak.

At the port of Bushire there are two landing-places, one close to the Residency, the other situated at a remote part of the town. Admiral Sir F. Maitland, on his arrival at Bushire, made use of the Residency landing-place, which appears to have been an usual practice. To this unimportant proceeding the Governor of Bushire expressed so much disapprobation, that Admiral Maitland, preparatory to his return on board the "Wellesley" next morning, found it necessary to order the ship's boats to be in attendance at the same landing-place, previously to his embarkation. At the time of embarkation, the mob of Bushire pelted with stones the officers of the "Wellesley" standing on the beach; a firing from the garrison, or town's people, ensued, whether on the boats or not Captain Hennell's letter does not indicate, though private letters from Bushire announce this to be the fact; mentioning that two balls lodged in the accoutrements of individuals of the naval party. The fire was returned from the boats, but was not permitted by Admiral Maitland to be continued, and no lives were lost.

Subsequently to this occurrence, an officer was fired at while walking on the roof of the Residency.

Captain Hennell determined to leave Bushire, but he was not allowed to carry his removal into execution without receiving an additional display of the hostility of the Governor. Two guns were brought into a position where they might bear on the Residency; the Governor commenced the tracing of a tower which should command the landing-place and the Residency gate, and he paraded round the Residency with two or three hundred armed men.

The Resident at Bushire does not appear to have been in possession of my letter of the 3rd of March, in which I authorized him to remove the Residency from that town to the Island of Karrak; and I think it right to mention that Captain Hennell informs me that he had not received Mr. Mc Neill's letter of the 24th of December, giving him authority to the same effect.

From the 8th and 9th paragraphs of the Sub-inclosure No. 1, your Lordship will perceive that it was not without hesitation that Captain Hennell quitted Bushire, after the perpetration of this insult on the British flag, and that he seems to have resolved to continue at his post if an apology had been made by the Governor for this premeditated act of hostility. This, in my estimation, would have been a most ill-judged step on the part of Captain Hennell, who, I think, has had ample experience that his presence in Bushire is certain to be accompanied by a repetition of a systematic course of insult which has been adopted by the successive Governors of Bushire. No atonement that so obscure an individual as the Governor of Bushire could make for the outrage inflicted on the British Admiral in person, could in my judgment be regarded as sufficient reparation; I am certain, at all events, that the honor and dignity of the British Government would not thereby be restored to their right position in men's minds in Persia. As I have learnt from a private source that Captain Hennell had still entertained some intention of returning to Bushire to receive an apology, I have addressed a letter to that gentleman, of which I do myself the honor to inclose a copy, intimating to him that I consider his return to that town would be highly inexpedient, and requesting him to remain at Karrak, unless he should receive orders of a contrary nature from superior authority. I trust your Lordship will approve of this course.

In the letters which may be expected to arrive in a short time from Tehran, in answer to the demands for satisfaction which have been made to the Persian Government, I anticipate that I shall receive a narrative of the collision which

has occurred at Bushire, accompanied not improbably by a demand for reparation. Should these anticipations be realized, I shall satisfy myself by making a simple statement of the facts as they really occurred; but I do not propose to claim any satisfaction from the Persian Government. My reasons for refraining from adopting this course are, that this seems to me to be a case in which I require your Lordship's instructions. When an obscure Russian subject was ill-treated at Resht, the Russian Minister demanded and obtained an apology from the Persian Government, and the ignominious dismissal from his appointment of the Governor of that City. The same degree of satisfaction was required by Mr. Mc Neill, when his messenger was ill-treated in the Shah's camp. But the outrage on the Admiral of Her Majesty's navy, and the other insults detailed in Captain Hennell's letters, are of so aggravated a character, and so far exceed in indignity to the British Government either of the offences I have alluded to, that I do not consider myself justified in allowing the Persian Ministers to suppose that satisfaction of the same nature will be considered sufficient by the British Government. After careful reflection on all the circumstances, it appears to me to be the most judicious course to submit the subject to your Lordship's decision, particularly as I am inclined to believe that before this despatch can reach London, the transactions at Bushire will have been brought under the review of Her Majesty's Government, Captain Hennell having probably forwarded his dispatches by Bagdad and Beyrout.

In consequence of the officer commanding the troops having represented to Captain Hennell that the residence of Sheik Nasir (the hereditary Chief and late Governor of Bushire) on the Island of Karrak, compromised the safety of the troops there, Captain Hennell had made arrangements for the removal of this person from Karrak; this I consider a necessary and timely measure.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Captain Hennell to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

*Residency in the Persian Gulf,
Karrak, April 11, 1839.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honor to transmit for your information copies of two letters addressed by me to the Honorable the Secret Committee, reporting the circumstances attending the removal of the British Residency from Bushire to the Island of Karrak, and the present state of affairs in this quarter.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) S. HENNELL,
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Sub-Inclosure in Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Captain Hennell to the Secret Committee of the East India Company.

*Residency in the Persian Gulf,
Karrak, April 2, 1839.*

(Extract.)

I HAVE the honor to report for the information of your Honorable Committee, the circumstances attending the removal of this Residency from Bushire to Karrak.

On the 20th ultimo, his Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Maitland, the Naval Commander-in-Chief, arrived at Bushire on board Her Majesty's ship "Wellesley," and was on the 22nd waited upon at the Residency by Meerza Assad, the Governor of Bushire, whose conduct towards me having been anything but satisfactory or friendly, I declined being present at the interview, but understand, however, that nothing particular took place save the Governor's expressing his dissatisfaction at our continued occupation of Karrak.

On the following day Sir Frederick Maitland returned Meerza Assad's visit, but I was unable to attend for the above reason. On returning, his Excellency informed me that the Governor having intimated that the boats would not be

allowed to communicate with the shipping from the Residency landing-place, as had heretofore been the custom; and considering this restriction as directed against himself personally, he had demanded a promise from Meerza Assad that no interruption should be offered to his embarking next morning. This promise the Governor evaded, whereupon the Admiral left his house in displeasure. Upon receiving this information, I saw at once that the time was come for me to take a decided step, and I therefore wrote to Meerza Assad that if this infringement of a long-established custom were insisted on, I should be under the necessity of removing the Residency from Bushire. The reply to this was unsatisfactory.

Sir Frederick Maitland having observed that a bastion commanding the Residency landing-place was occupied by a party of Persian musketeers, requested me to write to inform Meerza Assad that he intended embarking from the Residency the following morning, and had ordered armed boats from the "Wellesley" to be in attendance for his protection, but that they would not act hostilely, if he were not opposed in going off. To this the Governor only answered that he was not authorized to allow armed men to land in Bushire.

On the following morning, the 25th, a person came to me from the Governor to ask the cause of this demonstration, and I told him that the boats had come off for the Admiral, and that only those required for his accommodation would land.

After this, while seated in my office, I heard an uproar and the report of fire-arms, and on ascending the terrace saw a mob pelting the officers standing on the landing-place, and at the same time heard shots from the right and left, which were returned from the ship's boats; but the Admiral immediately ordered them to cease firing, while that from the town was continued until I sent a threatening message. This had the desired effect,—no more shots were fired, and the Admiral embarked without further molestation. It is satisfactory to add that no lives were lost on either side.

As the Governor had declined giving me the pledge asked for, that no obstacles should be thrown in the way of communicating from the Residency landing-place as usual, I determined on moving from Bushire; but being doubtful whether this might not be opposed, I requested that a party of the "Wellesley's" marines might be left on shore for the better protection of the Residency.

On the 26th the men of war's boats were employed taking off the baggage, and a native boatman having been placed in irons by the Governor for assisting in the same, on my remonstrating a frivolous excuse was returned. An officer standing on the roof of the Residency, having been fired at from the town, I sent a request to the Governor that the offender should be punished; he in return merely desired me to point him out for punishment, which was, of course, impossible. Two guns having been brought down to the bastion commanding the Residency, and a breastwork of sand-bags having been prepared, the Residency was placed in a state of defence.

On the 27th the weather prevented the embarkation of the baggage being continued. A number of armed men entered the town, and therefore I communicated to the Admiral certain signals which would be made if we required assistance.

In the course of the day the Cazee and merchants begged that I would remain in Bushire, and offered to send an apology to the Admiral on the part of the Governor for his boats having been fired at on the 25th, of which I informed his Excellency. I further intimated that although my misunderstanding had no immediate concern with that of the Admiral, yet I was bound to notice such unfriendly proceedings towards an officer of his high rank, and therefore an apology must be received by him, before I could enter on my affairs, but that when this was done, there would be no difficulty in making an arrangement for my remaining.

On the same evening the Governor, and two or three hundred armed men, paraded round the Residency, and precautions were taken against a surprise.

On the 28th I agreed to suspend the departure of the Residency until the result of the deputation sent to wait on the Admiral should be known. It appeared the Governor, together with Bakir Khan and the armed men called into the place on the occasion, were desirous of not allowing this deputation to go off, but the Cazee and merchants being pacifically inclined, it was eventually

allowed to embark. About noon the Governor, with Bakir Khan and a number of armed followers, came for the purpose of lining out the foundation of a tower, to be built opposite to our gate, so as to command the Residency and landing-place; but I received a message from the Governor desiring me not to be alarmed, as it was not intended to be erected against us. It appeared that the deputation which waited on the Admiral had brought no powers with them from the Governor, but that at length they promised that he should sign a written apology drawn out by the Admiral.

From the continued hostility of the Governor exhibited in so marked a manner yesterday, I wrote requesting the Admiral would this morning send off his armed boats, for the purpose of finally conveying myself and followers from the place. About the time that the boats arrived, Bakir Khan, with about 300 of his armed followers, took up a position about thirty yards from the place of embarkation, and seeing this, Captain Maitland and myself went up to him and explained that our intentions were friendly, and that the boats were merely coming to carry off the Residency establishment and baggage; to this the Khan answered generally, that he hoped we were all friends. After this I told Bakir Khan, that having been obliged to leave several horses and some other property behind, I trusted that this as well as the buildings would be respected, which he promised should be the case. After this I proceeded on board the "Wellesley," where I drew up a succinct narrative of what had taken place in a letter to the Prince of Shiraz.

About noon the "Wellesley" sailed for Karrak, and arrived there on the morning of the 30th ultimo.

Sub-Inclosure 2 in Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Captain Hennell to the Secret Committee of the East India Company.

(Extract.)

*Residency in the Persian Gulf,
Karrak, April 11, 1839.*

IN continuation of my report of the 2nd instant, I have now further the honor to inform you, that as yet having received no answer to my communications addressed to the Prince of Shiraz, informing him of the firing on the boats of Her Majesty's ship "Wellesley," and the offensive conduct towards myself of his Governor, Meerza Assad, I cannot say whether the Prince intends to acknowledge the acts of the Governor as those of himself and his Government, or to disavow them, by disgracing and removing that person from his trust. I have, however, received a letter from His Royal Highness, which, although it takes no notice of this affair, has been, I am convinced, written subsequently to his having been made acquainted with it. This letter, which is written in temperate language, is to the effect, that it had been reported to him by Meerza Assad that Admiral Sir F. Maitland had made an attempt to introduce a number of people into the Residency, which the Governor had opposed. This opposition the Prince directs him to continue until further orders be given, or until the explanation which he now demands be received; and adds, that such attempts must be looked upon as unfriendly indications on the part of the British towards Persia.

I have received friendly letters from the Cazee and other authorities at Bushire, expressive of their earnest desire for my return; and I have thought it right to address a letter to the Governor of Bushire, assuring him that, notwithstanding what has happened, the merchants and others may continue to embark their treasure and goods with the perfect assurance that it will remain unmolested by us, so long as British property is respected by Persia.

It appears that preparations still continue to be made at Bushire for the defence of the place, and some troops are said to be on their way from Shiraz to strengthen the garrison; but these cannot probably be spared in any number, as a part of those usually quartered at the capital of Fars have been ordered to proceed to Tehran to join in the expedition against Herat. These troops, possessing hardly anything like discipline, cannot be considered as formidable. An officer of high rank has, it is reported, left Shiraz for Bushire, with full powers to adjust all misunderstandings.

In conclusion, I have to inform your Honorable Committee that Colonel Shirreff, the commanding officer of the field detachment, having represented that the continued residence on the island of Sheik Nasir, the Ex-Governor of Bushire, compromised the safety of the force under his command, I have been under the necessity of making arrangements for the removal of that person from Karrak.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Captain Hennell.

(Extract.)

Erzeroom, May 26, 1839.

I HAD the honor to receive yesterday your letter of the 11th of April, inclosing copies of your despatches of the 2nd and 11th of April to the Secret Committee, detailing the circumstances under which Admiral Sir F. Maitland had been grossly insulted at Bushire; an act of hostility to the British Government had been committed by the boats of Her Majesty's ship "Wellesley" having been fired on, an officer of the same ship having been fired at while walking on the roof of the Residency-house; and the various outrages which had been perpetrated against yourself by the Governor of Bushire, by bringing two guns into a position to bear on the Residency, and by making preparations for constructing a tower which should command the Residency-gate.

By the 8th and 9th paragraphs of your letter to the Secret Committee, I perceive that it was not without hesitation that you determined to quit Bushire after these insults had been committed, and that you expressed an intention of continuing to reside in that town if an apology were made by the Governor of Bushire for the outrage which had been sustained by the British Admiral. It appears to me to be very fortunate that circumstances did not admit of your following this course; no possible advantage can result from your continued presence in Bushire, where you have suffered from a course of systematic and unredressed affronts; and no apology from so obscure a person as Meerza Assad Oollah, could, in my opinion, be considered adequate for the insults which have been inflicted on the British flag and Government, in the persons of the British Admiral and yourself. So satisfied am I of the inadequacy of any such reparation, that I shall refrain from demanding satisfaction from the Persian Government, from the conviction that indignities of so extreme a nature, which may perhaps be more properly designated as open hostilities, are not to be atoned for by a simple apology, and that so aggravated a manifestation of the hostile spirit of the Persian authorities is most properly disposed of by being submitted to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have learnt from a private source that you had actually embarked at Karrak for the purpose of returning to Bushire, apparently with the object of receiving an apology for the outrages which have recently occurred. I sincerely trust that this intelligence may be incorrect, and though I am averse to make private information the subject of an official letter, I regard this to be a point of too much importance to allow me to be deterred from alluding to it. Your unavoidable departure from Bushire, at a moment of collision, appears to have received at Tehran the construction of flight and defeat; your return and re-establishment in that town, in consequence of an inadequate concession from a man of Meerza Assad Oollah's rank, would, I doubt not, be viewed with triumphant exultation by the Court of Persia, and would tend greatly to embarrass and impede any negotiations which Her Majesty's Government may think fit to institute with the Cabinet of Tehran.

I regard it, therefore, to be my duty to intimate to you that I consider your return to Bushire would be highly inexpedient; and I have to request that you will not by any means think of adopting that step, unless you should receive orders to that effect from superior authority.

No. 52.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 12.)

(Extract.)

Erzerroom, June 22, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to transmit for your Lordship's information copy of a letter, addressed by the Resident in the Persian Gulf to the Secret Committee, which has been forwarded to me by that officer, relative to his further proceedings at Bushire, subsequent to the collision with the boats of Her Majesty's ship "Wellesley."

Your Lordship will perceive, that after the removal of the Residency to the Island of Karrak, Captain Hennell had judged it expedient to return to Bushire, though without landing, with the expectation of receiving an apology or explanation from a person who had been despatched by the Prince of Shiraz to Bushire, for the purpose of inquiring into the real nature of that transaction.

The anticipations of Captain Hennell were not realised; for no attempt at an apology was made, but, on the contrary, an effort was tried to cast the entire blame on the British authorities.

Captain Hennell therefore returned to Karrak, having first addressed a letter to the Prince of Shiraz, expressive of his hopes that His Royal Highness would adopt measures for the adjustment of the misunderstanding which had taken place, by removing the Governor of Bushire from his appointment.

It is unnecessary to enter into a lengthened recapitulation of the opinions which I have ventured to submit to your Lordship on this subject, in my despatch of the 26th of May. An apology from a person deputed by the Government of Fars appears to me an inadequate reparation for the affront which has been committed; nor do I think that an apology from the Government of Fars direct would obliterate the impression of degradation which has been incurred by the outrage at Bushire, and the so-called flight and defeat of the Resident and Admiral. After the encomiums which, according to my information, have been conferred on the conduct of the Governor of Bushire, I feel a conviction, that if so simple a reparation as a mere apology were to be considered adequate, to be of any use whatever, it can only be admissible from the Persian Government itself. Nothing would be more easy than a disavowal by the Persian Government of an apology from the Prince of Shiraz, after the re-establishment of the Resident at Bushire.

The Prince of Fars has addressed a letter to Captain Hennell, exonerating him from any blame in the recent transaction at Bushire, and even bestowing praise on his conduct.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Captain Hennell to the Secret Committee of the East India Company.

(Extract.)

*Residency in the Persian Gulf,
Karrak, April 22, 1839.*

WITH reference to my last letter to your Honorable Committee in this department, under date the 11th instant, I have now the honor to report, that on the 16th instant I had an interview with Hoosseïn Khan Sirdar (a Persian nobleman sent down by the Prince of Shiraz), at his own invitation, on board Her Majesty's ship "Wellesley," off Bushire. My object in so readily complying with the Khan's wish for a meeting was, that an evident proof might be exhibited of our desire to receive any concessions or apologies for the insulting proceedings of the Governor, of which the Sirdar might be the bearer, from the Government of Fars.

I regret, however, to inform your Honorable Committee, that the result of this interview was by no means so satisfactory as the tenor of my letters from Bushire had led me to expect. The Khan's manner was rather that of a person deciding upon the conduct which had been pursued by us, than one whose mission it was to explain and apologize for the misconduct of which Meerza Assad had been guilty. Throughout the discussion, the Meerza's proceedings were attempted to be defended upon his own false reports, namely, that hostilities had been threatened unless a large body of British troops were allowed to land and station themselves in Bushire. This, and other equally mendacious statements, were for a long time assumed to be equally correct with ours; and when their untruth was plainly pointed out, all the subsequent insulting proceedings of the Governor were attributed solely to his fears; but not a shadow of an apology was offered for them. As his Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Maitland had distinctly intimated, that having repelled the insult offered to himself and his flag to his own entire satisfaction, he required nothing more, I, of course, confined myself to the discussion of the affairs more immediately connected with the Residency.

In the course of the interview I gave the Sirdar to understand, that after the misconduct I had experienced from Meerza Assad, his removal from the Government of Bushire was a necessary preliminary to the re-establishment of the Residency in that port. I also further informed him, that the restoration of all former privileges enjoyed by British subjects was another indispensable condition. The Khan, however, assured me, he had no power to do more than to guarantee the last, but that if I would agree to return at once, he felt certain that my other wish would be complied with by the authorities of Fars. After much unsatisfactory conversation we parted upon the understanding, that I should lay my requests before the Prince of Shiraz, and await a reply at Karrak.

Accordingly, the day after my interview with the Sirdar, I addressed an Areza to His Royal Highness, in which I expressed a hope, that he would adjust the misunderstanding arising out of the misconduct of Meerza Assad, by the removal of that person from the Government of Bushire; that he would replace the British in the enjoyment of the same privileges they formerly possessed; and that he would issue more peremptory orders for the supplies from Bushire to be shipped without interruption, as well as for the punishment of the individuals concerned in an outrage committed on the Shroff of the British Residency some months back.

My private letters from Bushire inform me, that affairs remain much in the same state, excepting that the Governor Meerza Assad is exerting his influence to procure the seals of the inhabitants to a document exculpating himself, and throwing the blame of the late misunderstanding upon ourselves; a copy of this document is, I understand, to be forwarded to the Bombay Government.

Still, however, a desire is professed for the re-establishment of the Residency; and I am disposed to think, that if I were to pledge myself to return, that Meerza Assad would perhaps be removed from his Government. With reference, however, to the unsettled state of our political relations with the Court of Tehran, and the current reports that a large force is about to march against Herat, I have thought it best under all circumstances to decline returning to Bushire, before I receive instructions from my own Government to do so. The policy, however, of re-establishing the Residency in its former place, before the nature of our future relations with Persia be definitively settled, appears to me very doubtful.

No. 53.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 12.)

(Extract.)

Erzeroom, June 22, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to report that yesterday I received answers, of which translations are herewith transmitted, from the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the demands for satisfaction which, by your Lordship's orders, I

made for the forcible occupation of Major Todd's house at Tehran, and the outrage on the Residency Banker at Bushire. The Persian Government has not made any reparation for either of these affronts, alleging, with reference to the occupation of Major Todd's house, that that dwelling was not a gift to him, but had only been appropriated for his residence while he was in the service of the Shah, and that, therefore, during his absence the Persian Government had a right to assign the house to any other person. The Minister for Foreign Affairs states the motive for allowing M. Semino to reside in Major Todd's house was, that it might be maintained in good repair, which is an admission on the part of the Persian Government that M. Semino had occupied the house, as he repeatedly stated, by their orders.

Your Lordship will perceive that the Minister for Foreign Affairs has omitted all allusion to the really offensive part of the conduct of the Persian Government and M. Semino, the forcible occupation of Major Todd's house, and without making any reference to Sir John McNeill, in whose charge it had been left. This practice of slurring over the important parts of the demands made on them has latterly been constantly adopted by the Persian Government.

Instead of an apology for the outrage on the banker at Bushire, which the Persian Government has not denied, the conduct of the Cazee, the chief promoter of the riot and attack, is justified on the plea that the Jewish banker had acted in opposition to the precepts of Mahommedanism by selling wine. The Resident at Bushire has declared that the wine destroyed was intended for exportation; but even if the assertion of the Persian Government were true, it would be no justification of the treatment suffered by a dependent of the British Residency.

I propose to address again the Minister for Foreign Affairs on these subjects.

In reference to Meerza Massood's letter regarding Major Todd's house, as it appears to have been the intention of the Persian Government to give it to that gentleman only for a specific period, it seems to me that continuing to retain it in our possession under existing circumstances can only be attended with inconvenience; and I propose to inform Meerza Massood that it will be delivered up to the Persian Government.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Meerza Massood to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

June 1, 1839.
Rebbe-oni-Ewel, 1235.

THE letter which you have written concerning the house of Mr. Todd, and its occupation for twenty-four hours by M. Semino, in obedience to the instructions of the Ministers of this imperishable and victorious State, and in which you request that his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee, the exalted and most noble ornament of Mahommedanism and Mahommedans, (may God grant him protection,) should apologize for having so ordered,—has arrived.

This house his Excellency, the dispenser of greatness, had bought, and on account of the affection and friendship which he entertained for Mr. Todd, ordered that the latter gentleman should reside there so long as he remained in the service, but not that it should be his own property. Therefore, during his (Major Todd's) absence, the object of the occupation of the house by M. Semino or by any other person was, that it be preserved in good and habitable condition; but after his return it will as formerly be restored to him. If his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee, after purchasing this house, had bestowed it upon Mr. Todd to be his own property, it is evident that if any other person had seized or taken possession of it, such would be contrary to usage. Notwithstanding this, in consideration of our friendship to you, it was ordered that the house shall be vacated, and directions have been given in addition, that henceforward no one shall reside there.

Translated by
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Meerza Massood to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

June 1, 1839.
Rebbee-ool-Ewel 20, 1255.

I HAVE received the letter addressed by you to me regarding the Jew Elias, the banker of the Consul at Bushire, and the loss and outrage which he has suffered by the conduct of Sheik Mahomed Hassan, the Cazee of that town. The circumstances connected with this transaction having been represented to the Ministers of this haughty State, I have been directed to make the following reply:—Praise be to God, the friendship and ancient alliance existing between these two exalted States would not allow the Ministers of these two Governments to consent that either nation should suffer injury, and they are at all times equally solicitous, that agreeably to the rights of friendship, the subjects of both States should live securely in the enjoyment of their property.

With regard to this matter, agreeably to what we have heard, the above-mentioned Cazee, considering the sale of wine to Mahommedans to be opposed to his own religion, had forbidden the Jews (to sell wine), and in acting thus the Cazee cannot be reckoned liable to animadversion.

However, as you have made the request, a royal order has been issued directing the Prince of Fars to institute inquiries into the affair and to make compensation to Elias by bestowing on him double the amount of his losses. We must at the same time express to you our expectations that you should prohibit Elias from acting in opposition to the Mahommedan faith by selling wine to those who do not consider its consumption lawful, that thus vexation and coldness may not arise (between the two States).

Translated by
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

No. 54.

Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 13, 1839.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 22nd of June, I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve your intention to inform Meerza Massood that the house formerly occupied by Major Todd will be delivered up to the Persian Government.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 55.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Clanricarde.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 15, 1839.

I HAVE hitherto omitted to inform your Excellency that about two months ago M. Kisseleff brought to me a paper professing to be the translation of a Persian letter addressed to me by Hajee Meerza Aghassee, the original of which M. Kisseleff said he was ready to deliver to me, if I was willing to receive it, and which had been sent for that purpose from Tehran to St. Petersburg, and from thence to London. The letter set forth that Count Nesselrode had informed the Persian Government, that he had learnt from Sir John Mc Neill, during that gentleman's stay at St. Petersburg in his way home from Persia, that there were only two things which the British Government demanded from Persia, as the conditions on which depended the re-establishment of friendly relations between the two countries: and that those demands were, first, that

the Persian Government should declare that Hajee Khan had been dismissed on account of his conduct towards the English messenger; secondly, that the Persian Government should make an apology for the treatment which that messenger experienced. Hajee Meerza Aghassee then went on to say that the Persian Government, from its desire to be well with England, and especially from its wish to oblige Russia, would not hesitate to comply with those demands; and that, consequently, he declared that Hajee Khan had been dismissed, among other reasons, on account of the wish expressed by the British Minister that he should be dismissed; and that although the Persian Government denied that anything wrong had been done towards the messenger, yet they were sorry for what had been done.

M. Kisseleff, at the same time, showed me a despatch from Count Nesselrode transmitting to him this letter, taking credit to the Russian Government for having thus obtained from Persia all that England asked, and declaring that the Shah having thus gone to the extreme extent of possible concession, and having done all that we had asked of him, and all that we were entitled to ask, we should henceforward be manifestly in the wrong if we did not accept this full satisfaction, and if we did not thereupon evacuate Karrak, and re-establish our Mission at Tehran.

In reply to this communication, I said to M. Kisseleff that Her Majesty's Government must no doubt feel much obliged to that of Russia for the friendly interest which had prompted that Government to endeavour in this manner to make up the quarrel which has arisen between England and Persia; and that this feeling on our part was not the less sincere because we did not think the satisfaction now offered sufficient, and because we could not accept even sufficient satisfaction, if coming through such a channel.

I said that it was to be regretted that as Count Nesselrode meant to make an attempt to persuade the Persian Government to yield to our demands, he had not, in the first place, taken steps to ascertain with accuracy what those demands were; which he would have learnt, if, instead of acting upon a conversation with Sir John McNeill, who was at St. Petersburg only as a private traveller, and without authority or instruction to enter into communication with the Russian Government, he had addressed himself to your Excellency, who being accredited and responsible, would have taken care to give him an accurate statement of the precise nature of the demands we had made.

For I said that Count Nesselrode, in stating to the Persian Government what our demands are, had omitted a very important one with regard to the affair of the messenger; and had also left unnoticed other demands upon different matters.

I said that the Papers laid before Parliament would show that, with regard to the affair of the messenger, Sir John McNeill, when in Persia, had asked three things:—

First. The dismissal of Hajee Khan.

Secondly. An apology from the Prime Minister.

Thirdly. The publication of a firman securing the members and servants of the Mission in future from molestation and annoyance.

Now, with regard to the first of these demands, it had been put out of the question by the dismissal of Hajee Khan for other causes; and it was evident that this demand was not satisfied by an assertion of Hajee Meerza Aghassee made now, and which was quite inconsistent with a notorious fact which had happened last year. But I said that as Hajee Khan has been dismissed, that first demand must fall to the ground.

I said that the second demand might, or might not, be considered by Her Majesty's Government as being complied with by the letter of Hajee Meerza Aghassee, though the apology given by him did not appear to me to be as frank and straightforward as would be given by a party who sincerely wished for a reconciliation.

But I said that the third demand was left wholly unnoticed; and nevertheless it was one of great importance, and for practical purposes perhaps the most important of the three.

Moreover, I said, other questions had arisen since that of the messenger, and we now insist, not only upon satisfaction about the messenger, but upon due reparation on other scores; and upon the evacuation of Ghorian, and of all other places in Afghanistan. Therefore, M. Kisseleff must see that Count Nesselrode

was mistaken in supposing that this letter from Hajee Meerza Aghassee contained all we asked, and all that the Shah could properly be expected to do.

But I said, moreover, that without meaning to express any unfriendly feeling towards Russia, or any undue jealousy of her, I must be allowed to observe that it would be impossible for the British Government, placed as it is with respect both to Persia and Russia, to accept the apology of Persia through the hands of Russia. To do so would have the appearance of acknowledging a protectorship of Russia over Persia, inconsistent with that political independence which we claimed for Persia, and which Russia herself was anxious to attribute to that Power. I observed that our differences are with Persia direct; that we have a Chargé d'Affaires left at Erzeroom, close to the Persian frontier, for the express purpose of receiving any communication which the Persian Government may have to make. That the Persian Government had sent an Envoy to England, who had then just arrived, and with whom I was about to communicate, though I could not receive him officially. If, then, the Persian Government had anything to say to us, it ought to say it, either through our Chargé d'Affaires, or through the Persian Envoy.

I said, therefore, that I must decline receiving from him the Persian letter, of which he had shown me the French translation.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 56.

Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, September 4, 1839.

I HAVE to instruct you to send a copy of my despatch to Lord Clanricarde, or the substance of it, to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, together with a translation of it into Persian.

No. 57.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 31.)

(Extract.)

Erzeroom, July 20, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to transmit a sealed letter from Meerza Massood, Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Shah, to your Lordship's address.

Accompanying the above communication, I received a letter from Meerza Massood, inclosing a copy of a letter from Hajee Meerza Aghassee, addressed to your Lordship, of which the original is described by Meerza Massood to have been sent through the Russian Government, containing an explanation of the outrage which was committed on the courier. I have the honor to inclose translations of these two documents.

I have the honor to inclose for your Lordship's information a copy of my answer to Meerza Massood's communication.

Inclosure 1 in No. 57.

Meerza Massood to Viscount Palmerston.

(Translation.)

After Titles and Compliments.

Rebbee-ool-Akher 7, 1255.

THE letter dated the 22nd April, A.D. 1839, which you addressed to me, has been received, and its contents have been understood. In reply I have the honor to represent to your Excellency that the exalted Government of Persia

has always been faithful in its friendship to the powerful Government of England. From this side there had not been anywhere, or in any way, the slightest disregard or neglect of the Articles of the fortunate Treaty. During the two years now past, certain discussions have arisen in consequence of the march to Herat, which was not in any way at variance with the Treaty; but as soon as it became known that the prosecution of these enterprises to a termination would give umbrage to the British Government and excite its enmity, Persia, submitting to all the loss and mortification, left these enterprises incomplete and imperfect, and did not permit the slightest infringement of the friendship between the two Governments, which it regarded as more valuable than all other objects or advantages.

As the acts of justice which the British Government required of the Persian Government had been carried into effect, and the promises (matters) contained in the letter which the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed on the 15th of August, 1838, to Sir John McNeill were complied with in the fullest manner on the 12th of the month Seffer A.H. 1255, (through the channel of the General Duhamel, Minister Plenipotentiary of the powerful Government of Russia,) there is a perfect certainty that the causes of anger having been completely removed, the elements of union of every description will be brought together, and that Hoossein Khan, the Ambassador of this exalted Government at the Court of that powerful State, will be received with honor. What more trouble shall I give? May your Excellency's presence continue to adorn the Ministry, that thus the attachment and kindness between the two Governments may be increased.

(Seal) MEERZA MASSOOD.

Translated by
(Signed) JOHN MC NEILL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 57.

Meerza Massood to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

June 27, 1839.
Rebbe-ous-Sanneh 4, 1255.

THE friendly letter of which Yoossoof Beg Gholam was the bearer, was received at a fortunate and favorable moment, and has afforded me much pleasure and happiness in hearing of the good state of your health.

As the above-mentioned person (Yoossoof Beg) is about to set out on his return, I have the pleasure of writing you this letter, from the contents of which you will be informed that the letter addressed to me by his Excellency Lord Palmerston, British Minister for Foreign Affairs, which was inclosed in your own, has arrived, and been submitted to the Ministers of this haughty State. The answer has been written according to instructions, and I have sent it to you in order to have it forwarded to its destination. Since I have no other object in view, it is unnecessary to lengthen my letter. Always continue to inform me of the state of your health and affairs.

P.S.—The copy of his Excellency Lord Palmerston's letter to me, and a copy of the letter of apology from Hajee Meerza Aghassee (upon whom be the blessing of God) to his Lordship, which was transmitted through the mediation of General Duhamel, Russian Minister Plenipotentiary, are inclosed for your information, and please Heaven your friends will soon have the pleasure of seeing you here in person.

Translated by
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 57.

Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Lord Palmerston.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

April 25, 1839.
Sefter 12, 1255.

HIS Excellency the Russian Minister at the Court of Persia has informed us, that when his Excellency Mr. Mc Neill passed through Petersburg, he had some conversation with his Excellency Count Nesselrode, in which he stated that the cause of the disagreement between Persia and England, was owing to the outrage which had been committed on an English courier, and for which no satisfaction had been given; and Mr. Mc Neill added, that if this embarrassing impediment were removed, the British Mission would return to Persia on the same footing as before. Mr. Mc Neill also stated that the reparation required was a declaration that the officer who arrested the courier, was for this offence dismissed from his situation, and secondly, that I should myself make an apology.

Although we never conceived that it would be contrary to the laws of nations that we should seize a courier who was proceeding from a country with which we were at war, yet as soon as it was known that the courier belonged to the English Government, without receiving any ill-treatment or threats, and without opening his letters, he was liberated.

Notwithstanding this, to give a fresh evidence of our desire for the continuance of the friendship of the British Government, and also in compliance with the recommendation of the Russian Government, we do not decline to declare, first, that for a length of time, and solely at the demand of Mr. Mc Neill, Hajee Khan has been dismissed, and that although the Ministers of this haughty State were aware of his having committed other faults, yet in truth the real cause and principal reason of his dismissal was this demand of Mr. Mc Neill.

Secondly, you know well that although, at the siege of Herat, I wished to visit Mr. Mc Neill to make an apology for this mishap, he would not consent to receive my visit.

The apology which I then wished to make to him verbally, I now give in writing, stating, that the arrest and detention of the courier belonging to the English Government happened without the desire or knowledge of the Persian Government.

Translated by
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 57.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Meerza Massood.

Erzerroom, July 19, 1839.

I HAVE had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter, of the 17th Rebbée-oos-Sanee, (27th of June, 1839,) inclosing a sealed letter for Viscount Palmerston, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and a copy of a communication from his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Viscount Palmerston, which you state to have been forwarded to its destination through the Russian Government.

With reference to this latter document, it is desirable to inform your Excellency, that when communications are addressed to the British Government by another Court, it is usual to transmit these communications, not through a Third Government, but through the missions or agents of the British Government.

His Excellency Hoossein Khan will, doubtless, have apprised his Court of all transactions connected with his Embassy, and he will, therefore, have informed you, that when a letter from him to Lord Palmerston was transmitted by Prince Metternich, Prime Minister to His Majesty the Emperor of Austria

the letter was returned to Prince Metternich with a request, that it should be restored to his Excellency Hoossein Khan. Lord Palmerston has also informed your Excellency, that I am remaining at Erzeroom, for the purpose of receiving and forwarding to England any communications intended for the British Government. You have, it is true, sent me copy of his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee's letter, but that, as you tell me, is intended only for my own personal information.

As the letter of his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee has been addressed direct to Viscount Palmerston, without passing through this Mission, it is unnecessary that I should make any observations on the sufficiency or inadequacy of the apologetic language of that communication; but I must recall to your recollection that the Persian Government appears to have overlooked the other demands of the British Government, the fulfilment of which Viscount Palmerston has so specifically required in his Lordship's letter to your Excellency. You will easily understand that I allude to the demands of the British Government, to which an assent on the part of the Persian Government is contained in the letter of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated 24th Jemadee-ool-Ewel, 1254, (15th August, 1838;) and also to the demands contained in the communication of 11th Ramazan, 1254, (29th November, 1838.)

Under the impression that this omission may have arisen from oversight, I allow myself to entertain the expectation that I may receive such a communication from your Excellency as shall prove satisfactory to the British Government; and, as you may feel assured that all communications to the British Government from another Cabinet will meet with more prompt and efficacious attention, when transmitted through the regular channel of their own agents, I take this opportunity to invite his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee to forward to me a letter of the same character as that addressed by him to Viscount Palmerston, suggesting, at the same time, that there should be an absence of all denial of violence or menace having been used to the courier, it being publicly notorious, that the courier experienced extreme ill-treatment; and that the portion referring to the personal conduct of his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee in this affair, should be specific and complete, and exhibiting his regret at the occurrence.

The object of the Persian Government in making this concession is of course to facilitate the restoration of friendly relations between the two Governments; and it would appear evident, that once having resolved on this step, it cannot be a disadvantage to the Court of Persia to execute it in such a way, as to leave no room for well-grounded complaints of incompleteness and insufficiency.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

P.S.—I feel much obliged to your Excellency for having sent me a translation of Viscount Palmerston's letter to you; yet I regret you should have taken this trouble, as Viscount Palmerston had done me the honor to send me a copy of that document.

No. 58.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 31.)

My Lord,

Erzeroom, July 24, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to transmit for your Lordship's information, copies of the letters addressed by me to Meerza Massood, Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in answer to the letters received from him, in which the Persian Government declines to give satisfaction for the forcible occupation of Major Todd's house, and the ill-treatment of the Residency banker at Bushire.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Meerza Massood.

Sir,

Erzeroom, June 25, 1839.

I HAVE had the honor to receive your letter of the 20th of Rebbec-ool-Ewel, (1st of June,) in answer to the communication which I addressed to your Excellency on the 10th of Seffer, (23rd of April,) demanding, by orders of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, an apology from his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee for the forcible occupation of the house which had been appropriated by the Persian Government for the residence of Major Todd.

Your Excellency informs me that the dwelling in question was purchased by his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee, by whom it was lent to Major Todd for his accommodation during the time he remained in the service of His Majesty the Shah; but that not having been bestowed on that officer with the intention that it should become his property, the house was available for the service of the Persian Government, which had therefore a right to assign it to M. Semino, or any other person.

I must in the first place remark that this is the first occasion on which I have heard that his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee was the purchaser of this house, and if your Excellency takes the trouble to make inquiries on the subject, you will probably find that it was bought by the Persian Government, and by orders of His Majesty the Shah was delivered over to Major Todd. This, however, is unimportant, neither is the question at issue at all influenced by your Excellency's declaration that the house, having been only a loan to Major Todd, the Persian Government was justified in resuming possession of its property. As my information on this point is not precise, I do not deny that this dwelling was really the property of the Persian Government, or that it had a right to apply it to its own purposes; but I do deny most strongly that the Persian Government had any right whatever to resume possession of the house in the improper manner that was practised.

The Persian Government seems to have lost sight of the facts upon which the demand for reparation is founded, and I must therefore shortly re-state them.

A house, either a gift or a loan, is appropriated by the Persian Government for the residence of an English officer in the employment of His Majesty the Shah. That officer is despatched to a distance by his Excellency Sir John McNeill on business connected with the service of his own Government, and Major Todd's house remains under the charge of the British Minister. The Persian Government then thinks fit to assign this dwelling for the use of another person, but without making any reference, as propriety required, to the British Minister in whose charge the house had been left, or in his absence to any other member of the British Mission, I myself being at Tehran at the time, the Persian Government unreflectingly and inattentive to usage directs the above person who is employed in its service, to take possession of Major Todd's house. This person (or more strictly speaking his servants), acting on these instructions and unable to enter by the door of the dwelling, the key being in the possession of an agent of the British Minister, (so completely is this residence under the charge of Sir John McNeill,) enters the house by ascending over the roof, and forcibly occupying it retains it in his possession for a certain time.

This simple statement of the facts as they really occurred cannot fail to convince the Persian Government of the wrong view taken by it on this subject, and of the propriety of readily complying with the just demands of the British Government for reparation.

When the Persian Government desired to obtain possession of Major Todd's house, if it had followed the natural and obvious course of making an application to me, who happened to be present in Tehran, nothing could have been more easily arranged than this matter; but, by its precipitate conduct, an affront has been committed against the British Government, for which I am satisfied the Persian Government will clearly perceive that the apology demanded by the British Government is imperatively necessary.

Your Excellency states in your letter that the object in view in assigning

this house to M. Semino was, that it might be preserved in good repair and in habitable order. This statement proves distinctly that the repeated declarations of M. Semino, that he had taken possession of Major Todd's residence by orders of his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee were perfectly correct.

I therefore renew to your Excellency on the present occasion the demand which I formerly made of a formal apology from his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee for the affront which has been committed against the British Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Meerza Massood.

Sir,

Erzeroom, June 25, 1839.

IN answer to the letter which I had the honor to address to your Excellency on demanding an apology from the Persian Government for the outrage which had been committed on the Jew Elias, the Shroff of the British Residency at Bushire, and the punishment of the persons who were concerned in that transaction, I have received your Excellency's letter of the 20th of Rebbec-ool-Ewel, (1st of June,) in which, without affording the redress demanded by the British Government, you state that Elias having infringed the precepts of the Mahomedan religion by selling wine to the members of that faith, the conduct of the Cazee Mahomed Hassan (in directing an attack to be made on his house, his property to be destroyed, and himself to be severely beaten) was not open to animadversion.

In the first place, the Persian Government has been misinformed, and this is a mis-statement of the occurrence.

The Jew Elias was not in the practice of selling wine at Bushire, the wine destroyed in his house being intended for exportation to Bombay.

In the next place, supposing that Elias did sell wine at Bushire, in the manner your Excellency describes, which, however, he did not; this makes no difference in the question. The Persian Government seems to advance pretensions that its agents have a right to punish persons in the service of the British Government, and this too without reference to the British authorities on the spot.

This is a most novel pretension, and is altogether opposed to the customs which regulate the intercourse between Governments, as I am persuaded your Excellency well knows. It is a principle which the British Government can by no means recognize or submit to, for every person in its service is for the time to be regarded in the light of an English subject, and equally entitled to protection.

I therefore repeat to your Excellency the demand of the British Government, that the Persian Government should apologize for the injury which was inflicted on the Jew Elias, and punish the perpetrators of that outrage.

With regard to the design of the Persian Government to reimburse Elias for the loss he has sustained by the misconduct of the agents of the Persian Government, there can be no doubt that the intention is praiseworthy and equitable; but it is a secondary and distinct question from the claim of the British Government for satisfaction for the outrage which has been committed.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

No. 59.

Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, September 4, 1839.

HER Majesty's Government approve the letters of which copies are inclosed in your despatch of the 24th of July, which you addressed to Meerza Massood on the 25th of June, relative to Major Todd's house, and to the outrage committed upon the broker of the British Residency at Bushire, in the month of November, 1838.

No. 60.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 22.)

My Lord,

Erzeroom, August 16, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to inclose for your Lordship's information, a translation of a letter which I have received from Meerza Massood, regarding the outrage committed on the Residency broker at Bushire, in which the Persian Government, adopting its usual course of evasion respecting transactions at Bushire, avoids giving, for the present at least, the satisfaction required, by promising to make inquiry on the subject from the Government of Fars.

Meerza Massood has given no reply to my letter to him of the 25th of June last, which formed an inclosure to my despatch to your Lordship of the 24th of July, respecting the demand of an apology from Hajee Meerza Aghassee for the forcible occupation of Major Todd's house.

I have the honor to inclose a copy of the letter which I have addressed on these subjects to Meerza Massood.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 60.

Meerza Massood to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

July 23, 1839.
Jemadee-ool-Ewel 12, 1255.

YOUR letter, dated 14th Rebbec-oos-Sanee, which was brought by your own courier, reached me on the 28th of the same month, and I have thoroughly understood its contents.

Concerning the Jew Elias, broker to the English Resident (at Bushire), on the subject of whom you have written, it is evident that the Ministers of the Persian Government are not by any means willing that persons connected with the British Government should suffer violence or insult; and agreeably to your wishes with regard to the Jew Elias, inquiries have been made from the Agents of the Government of Fars, the answer to which has not yet arrived, but please Heaven when it shall have arrived, the Ministers of this haughty State will give orders on this subject which will be agreeable to the British Government. What more shall I write? The demands of friendship are these, that you will always gladden me with information as to the state of your health, and communicate to me important affairs.

Translated by
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 60.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Meerza Massood.

Sir,

Erzerroom, August 15, 1839.

I HAVE had the honor to receive your letter of the 12th Jemadee-ool-Ewel, (23rd July, 1839,) intimating that with regard to the outrage which had been committed against Elias, the broker of the British Residency at Bushire, the Persian Government had directed inquiries to be made on this subject from the Government of Fars, and that it would act in this matter in such a manner as would be satisfactory to the British Government.

As there is no doubt that the result of your inquiries will be to substantiate the facts that I have stated to you, I trust to receive from your Excellency, on the present occasion, the satisfaction that has been demanded by the British Government, and an assurance that punishment has been inflicted on all the persons implicated in this outrage.

I have not received from your Excellency an answer to my letter of the 25th of June last, in which I repeated the demand of the British Government of a written and formal apology from his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee, for the forcible occupation of Major Todd's house by M. Semino.

Your Excellency has sent me an answer to the note which I wrote to you, intimating that as the Persian Government claimed Major Todd's house as its property, the dwelling in question was placed at its disposal; but you will doubtless perceive that an answer to my other communication on this subject is required.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

No. 61.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 22.)

My Lord,

Erzerroom, August 15, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to inclose for your Lordship's information a copy of a letter addressed by Captain Hennell to the Secret Committee, which I have recently received from that officer.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure in No. 61.

*Captain Hennell to the Secret Committee of the East India Company.**Residency in the Persian Gulf,
Karrak, June 18, 1839.*

Honorable Sirs,

WITH reference to the 3rd paragraph of my despatch of the 7th instant, on the subject of the affairs of Bushire, I have the honor to report for the information of your Honorable Committee, that, on the 5th of June, Meerza Assad the Governor, and Bakir Khan the Military Commandant of Bushire, were invested with the dresses of honor, alluded to therein as having been sent down from the Shah.

On the 8th instant, Meerza Assad received an intimation from the Wuzeer of Fars that he was removed from the Government of Bushire, and Meerza Mahomed Hoossein Khan (the Wuzeer's son-in-law) appointed in his room. A letter to my address, from the Shah's news-writer in that town, informs me, that the removal of Meerza Assad from his situation has been directed by the authorities of Fars, in order to prove the sincere desire entertained by them for a renewal of the former friendly relations with the English.

Meerza Assad has left Bushire, and taken up his residence in the neighbourhood, where he intends to await the reply of the Prince of Shiraz to a petition got up by the Chief Moollah and merchants of the place for his being reinstated in the Government. The town at present is under the charge of Bakir Khan. Some of the head servants of the new Governor have arrived, and the Khan himself is expected in the course of a few days.

The intimation of the causes of Meerza Assad's removal, communicated to me by the Shah's news-writer, cannot be considered as official, although, as coming from a recognised Persian functionary, it may be looked on as of some weight. Under any circumstances, however, I shall take no steps to re-establish the British Residency in Bushire, until I receive instructions to that effect from the Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) S. HENNELL.

No. 62.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 22.)

My Lord,

Erzerroom, August 16, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt, on the 12th instant, of your Lordship's despatches of the 13th of July.

I have the honor to inclose a translation of a letter addressed by me to Meerza Massood, in forwarding to him a translation of your Lordship's Memorandum to Hoossein Khan, containing the demands of the British Government from the Shah.

With reference to the demand for the removal of the Governor of Bushire from his command, on account of the outrage committed on Admiral Sir F. Maitland, your Lordship will perceive from the copy of Captain Hennell's letter to the Secret Committee, dated the 18th of June, inclosed in my despatch of yesterday, that the above person has been already displaced from his Government. I am unable to say whether his removal is to be attributed to the Persian Government having discovered that his report of that transaction is at variance with the real facts of the occurrence, or whether it has been done in anticipation of, and for the purpose of evading, the demands which may be expected to be made by the British Government. I have refrained, in my letter to Meerza Massood, from alluding to this removal, because it appears to me not improbable that when your Lordship learns that the Persian Government has adopted the conduct of the late Governor of Bushire and his associates as its own, by the distribution of decorations, dresses of honor, and firmauns, as if in celebration of a victory, the British Government may be disposed to exact reparation of a different nature from that which has been demanded in your Lordship's Memorandum.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Meerza Massood.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

HIS Excellency, Hoossein Khan, having, during the time of his residence in London, addressed two letters to Viscount Palmerston, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a Memorandum was sent to him by Viscount Palmerston, specifying the demands which Great Britain has to make on Persia.

To ensure an accurate translation of this document being placed before the

August 15, 1839.
Jemadee-oos-Sanee 6, 1255.

Persian Government, I have been instructed by Her Britannic Majesty's Government to forward to your Excellency a copy and translation of the memorandum, which I have the honor of doing herewith.

No. 63.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 4.)

My Lord,

Erzeroom, September 24, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter which I have received from Meerza Massood, Minister for Foreign Affairs, in answer to a communication which I addressed to him on the 19th of July, which formed inclosure to my despatch of the 20th of July, recommending that the apology of Hajee Meerza Aghassee should be transmitted direct to the British Government, instead of through the intervention of the Russian Government. Though the Prime Minister has not followed my suggestion, it appears to me that there is a considerable alteration in the tone of the Persian Government; and that it is more conciliatory than it has hitherto been since the withdrawal of the Mission. I have written an answer to Meerza Massood's letter, of which I have the honor to inclose a copy for your Lordship's information.

Your Lordship will remark the intimation of Meerza Massood, that the Commercial Treaty will be granted on the restoration of amicable relations between the two Governments. This is a spontaneous offer on the part of the Persian Government, no allusion having ever been made by me to that subject in any of the communications which I have addressed to Meerza Massood.

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs has not given me any reply to the letter, which I addressed to him on the 25th of June, reiterating the demand for an apology for the occupation of Major Todd's house.

The courier, whom I despatched to Tehran with a translation of your Lordship's memorandum to Hoossein Khan, was plundered by a party of Jelalee (Persian) Koords, within a stage of the frontiers of Persia. His packet was carried off; and I have accordingly forwarded the memorandum by another courier. These Koords have taken refuge in Turkey from Persia, but I do not imagine that this robbery was anything more than a common case of marauding. The Pasha of Erzeroom made an attempt to recover the packet without success, the thieves declaring that they had destroyed the contents; and they sent him a defiance to come and recover the other stolen property.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Meerza Massood to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

August 19, 1839.
Jemadee-oos-Sanee 10, 1255.

YOUR letter of the 12th Jemadee-ool-Ewel, which was sent by your courier Mulik Mahomed Beg, reached me on the 25th of the same month, and was presented by me to His Majesty the Shah-in-Shah; may God always preserve his country and sovereignty. His Majesty's commands are, that "We, as well as our grandfather and father, were, are, and still continue to seek and feel gratification from the friendship of the British Government.

"At the time when we intended to proceed to Herat, part of the intentions of both parties became manifest, which became the cause of mutual distrust to both Governments, and a coldness ensued between them. We, in order to put

an end to this coolness, relinquishing, at the desire of the Ministers of the British Government, the great undertaking in which we were engaged, returned and submitted to the severe losses which the Persian Government had incurred, assuring ourselves that there would be no further disagreement between us. We saw, however, that again, on account of some trifling matters, there was a tenacious persistence (سخت گیر Sukht geer) in his demands, on the part of his Excellency Sir John McNeill, Ambassador of the English Government. We thought the Ministers of the Government of England would have visited this tenacious persistence of their own agents with reproof, not ours; on this account we refrained from offering satisfaction.

"After the withdrawal of the agents of the English Government from this Court, by the intervention of the Government of Russia, it became known to our Ministers that the Ministers of the Government of England, in the affair of the apology on account of the courier, persisted and persevered in their demands. There being no agent of the British Government present in this Court, and being anxiously desirous that the two Governments should speedily return to their former state of friendship, the apologetic letter was sent through the mediation of a (Russian) Government, which, like our own, anxiously desired friendship between the two Governments; surely this proceeding will not be the cause of injuring friendship; and as it was carrying into effect the wishes of that (the British) Government, they will not attach any blame to our agents. Passing from this—it is an approved and good thing to be a peace-maker; thus the Ambassadors of the English Government which in former times were at this Court, when there was war between Persia and Russia, always mediated, and used their endeavours to make peace, and put an end to the war.

"In the matter of the Commercial Treaty it is evident, that after the relations of friendship shall have been restored and firmly established, it will be concluded in the manner that was arranged by Sir John McNeill."

Translated by
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclôsure 2 in No. 63.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Meerza Massood.

Sir,

Erzeroom, September 27, 1839.

I HAVE had the honor to receive your letter of the 10th Jemadee-oos-Sanee, (August 19, 1839,) in which your Excellency informs me that the cause which induced the Persian Government to select the Court of Russia as the channel of communication in transmitting a letter addressed by his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee to the British Government, was owing to the absence of the British Mission from Tehran. As my residence at Erzeroom presents every facility for direct communication with the British Government, and as the Persian Government has probably been apprized by the Russian Cabinet of the refusal of Viscount Palmerston, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to accept, on this occasion, of the Russian Government as the channel of communication, and of the refusal, from the same reason, of Viscount Palmerston to receive the letter of his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee, I take advantage of this opportunity to invite the Persian Government to avail itself of this Mission for transmitting a letter of apology to the British Government of the character specified in the memorandum addressed by Viscount Palmerston to Hoossein Khan.

I was in expectation of receiving by the same courier an answer to my letter of the 14th Rebbée-oos-Sanee, 1255, (June 25, 1839,) in which I re-urged on the Persian Government the demand of the British Government for satisfaction for the affront committed by the occupation of Major Todd's house. That expectation not having been fulfilled, I have now to repeat my request that an answer may be made to that communication.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

No. 64.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 26.)

My Lord,

Erzeroom, October 19, 1839.

AGREEABLY to your Lordship's instructions, I have transmitted to his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee, Persian Prime Minister, a copy and translation of the letter addressed by your Lordship to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

No. 65.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 26.)

(Extract.)

Erzeroom, October 19, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to inclose a letter to your Lordship's address from Hajee Meerza Aghassee. Meerza Massood has forwarded to me a copy of this communication, and of two firmauns accompanying it, and I do myself the honor to transmit translations of these papers, and also of two letters which I have received from Meerza Massood, and a copy of the answer I have written to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Hajee Meerza Aghassee announces to your Lordship that the Persian Government has complied with the whole of the demands contained in the memorandum to Hoossein Khan, and I am disposed to believe that your Lordship will consider the apologies of the Prime Minister for the outrage on the courier, and the occupation of Major Todd's house, sufficient.

The acquiescence given by the Persian Government to some of the other demands does not seem to me to be equally satisfactory. Ghorian is promised to be restored to the Affghans, but the restitution is postponed until the return of the Mission to Tehran, and I have therefore required from the Persian Government that this stipulation should be fulfilled at once. It appears to me to be evident, that in this procrastination the Persian Government has ulterior objects in contemplation; perhaps either to withhold the restoration of that fortress altogether, should circumstances prove favorable, or to make its delivery to the Affghans be accompanied by the evacuation of the Island of Karrak. I think that the fact of the Persian Government having at this moment issued, or pretended to issue, a firmaun, which forms the inclosure No. 3 to this despatch, to the Governor of Khorassan, directing him to restore Ghorian to the Affghans on the return of the British Mission, but which assuredly could not be executed without further instructions, cannot fail to be regarded with suspicion.

I observe that in the letter to your Lordship from the Prime Minister, and in the above firmaun, the Persian Government uses the word "Affghans" in reference to the restoration of Ghorian. This may be immaterial or unintentional; yet if, in delaying the restitution of that fortress, the Persian Government has any ulterior object in view, it is possible that it might try to take advantage of a subterfuge, and offer to deliver Ghorian to some other Affghan instead of Kamran Shah.

Your Lordship will remark, that in intimating that the Governor of Bushire was dismissed on account of the affront offered to the British Admiral, the Prime Minister has avoided stating that any public announcement has been given of the causes of this removal, which took place several months ago and apparently from reasons unconnected with the outrage on the Admiral, or the demand of the British Government; on this account I have called on the Persian Government to make publicly known that the misconduct of the Governor of Bushire has been punished by dismissal from his appointment.

The firmaun of protection to the servants of the Mission, which forms the inclosure No. 4, does not correspond with the demand of Sir John

Mc Neill on the 4th of June, 1838, to which the Persian Government agreed, and which your Lordship required should now be fulfilled. The present firmaun states that in Persia the servants of the British Mission shall receive the same treatment that the servants of British Missions receive at other Courts. So vague a promise as this would inevitably be attended hereafter with alteration and disagreement in defining what that treatment is, the Persian Government itself being in complete ignorance of the customs of other Courts. I have therefore reiterated the claim that a firmaun should be issued in conformity with the intimation conveyed in your Lordship's memorandum to Hoossein Khan.

In agreeing to pay the expenses incurred by Sir Henry Bethune on account of the mines in Karadagh, the Prime Minister has added a reservation of paying him in conformity with the firmaun which was issued on the arrival of the miners in Persia. The interpretation attached by the Persian Government to that firmaun is contained in a letter addressed to Sir Henry Bethune after his departure from Persia, in which he is informed that he had not fulfilled his agreement, and that it was necessary that he should do so before the Persian Government could consent to defray the expenses incurred by him. Notwithstanding the apparent intention of the Persian Government to avoid or postpone the payment of this debt, I have thought it better not to allude to the subject in my letter to Meerza Massood.

Though the Prime Minister has promised to punish the persons who committed the outrage on the broker of the resident at Bushire, it is proper to apprise your Lordship that I consider it to be out of the power of the Persian Government to execute this agreement. The chief delinquents in that transaction were the Cazee of Bushire and his nephew, persons whom it would be difficult at all times to subject to chastisement, and perhaps altogether impossible at the present moment, when the authority of the Government is scarcely acknowledged in Fars.

Although in my letter to Meerza Massood I have made such observations as seemed to me to be advisable with reference to Hajee Meerza Aghassee's letter, I think it right to express my opinion that in all probability the Persian Government will pause for the present, and wait for your Lordship's reply before it adopts any other steps regarding the subjects under discussion.

In the copy of the Prime Minister's letter, sent to me by Meerza Massood, there is an omission of the date in that part which refers to the transmission of an order to the Governor of Khorassan for the evacuation of Ghorian.

Inclosure I in No. 65.

Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Viscount Palmerston.

(Translation.)

September 15, 1839.
Rejeb 5, 1255.

A COPY of the translation of the memorandum which your Excellency addressed to Hoossein Khan, was received through Colonel Sheil, on the 29th of Jemadee-ool-Akher (9th September), and its contents were understood.

As the Persian Government is very desirous that the ancient friendship entertained towards the English Government should be speedily re-established on its former footing, all the demands contained in that memorandum have, therefore, been agreed to; and I, your friend, in reply, address you the following particulars.

1st. I, your friend, am very sorry for the seizure of the English Courier, on the occasion of the expedition against Herat; and I apologize to your Excellency; and in order that on no future occasion such an unpleasant occurrence may happen, a Royal Firmaun has been issued, that the dependents of the English Mission, whether Persians or natives of other countries, should be in safety and under protection; and under all circumstances, in the same manner as the people of that Government are treated by other Governments, so under this Government also the same treatment will be shown.

A copy of this Firmaun is forwarded to your Excellency.

2nd. On the 5th of this month Rejeb (15th September), orders have been issued to his Excellency the Ausef-ood-Dowleh, Governor of Khorassan, that he shall give up Ghorian, and deliver it to the Affghans after the arrival of the English Ambassador, who is to come here.

3rd. That for the attempt which Major-General Semino made to possess himself of the house which this Government had given for the residence of Major Todd, I, your friend, apologize.

4th. To the Firmaun Firma of Fars, a Royal Order has been issued, that he should punish those persons who were guilty of assailing the person or the property of the broker of the British Resident at Bushire.

5th. It has been ordered that the Governor of Bushire, who treated disrespectfully the Admiral of the English Government, shall be dismissed from the Government.

6th. The claims of Sir Henry Bethune, for the expenses incurred on the mines, shall be settled agreeably to the Firmaun in his possession, as well as the arrears of pay of the other officers who were in our service.

7th. A Commercial Treaty, agreeably to the arrangement made with Sir John McNeill, the former Minister of the English Government, which comprized two Articles, shall be concluded on the arrival of an English Minister.

There being no further causes for disagreement between the two exalted States, I hope that the materials of affection are prepared, and that the doors of esteem are open.

Since all the demands which the English Government made on that of Persia have been fulfilled with perfect frankness and cordiality, we feel assured that on the part of England also, the rules of friendship being observed in a suitable manner, they will give up the Island of Karrak, and that the other demands which have been entrusted to Hoossein Khan will be honored with compliance, so that henceforward no subject of discussion shall remain.

My duty enjoined me to trouble your Lordship so far, trusting to be honored by your constant friendly communications, commanding me at your pleasure.

I remain, &c.,
(Seal) AGHASSEE.

Translated by
(Signed) J. P. RIACH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

Firmaun issued by the Shah.

(Translation.)

September 15, 1839.
Rejeb 5, 1255.

ON account of the friendship subsisting between the two ever-enduring Governments of Persia and England, it is agreeable to our favor-dispensing Sublime Majesty, that the servants and dependents of the Ambassadors of the English Government resident at this Court, should live in all confidence and tranquillity, and should at all times be under the shadow of the protection and favour of our Sublime Majesty; therefore, in this auspicious year of the Hog, this auspicious Firmaun has been written to this effect, that the servants and dependents of the English Government, whether Persians or natives of other countries, are safe and secure; and under all circumstances, in the same manner as the people of that Government are treated by other Governments, so under this Government also the same treatment will be shown.

Translated by
(Signed) J. P. RIACH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 65.

Firmaun addressed to the Ausef-ood-Dowleh, Governor of Khorassan.

(Translation.)

September 15, 1839.
Rejeb 6, 1255.

AS the English Government has requested the Persian Government that we should give up the Fort of Ghorian, in consideration of the friendship between the two exalted States, the wish of that Government has been honored by our acceptance; and your Excellency, our honored Uncle, is therefore ordered, in compliance with the wishes of the English Government, to give up that Fort and deliver it to the Affghans, after the arrival at our sublime Court of the English Ambassador.

Our honored Uncle will therefore comply with these commands, stable as fate.

This command is imperative.

Translated by
(Signed) J. P. RIACH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 65.

Meerza Massood to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

September 20, 1839.
Rejeb 10, 1255.

YOUR kind letter upon two subjects arrived, one of which being the subject of the outrage which was committed upon Elias the broker of the Resident of Bushire, you have written that you hope to be informed by this courier, that the persons who committed the outrage upon the above-mentioned broker have been punished, and that reparation towards the English Government in this demand, has been carried into effect.

It is evident that the friendship and alliance between the two exalted States, require that all persons connected with the British Government, should be in security and safety under this Government, and that whoever molests them should suffer punishment. Thus it is a considerable time since the Ministers of this Government have made inquiries on this subject from the Government of Fars, and have given strict injunctions that the persons implicated in this transaction should be punished; and in the letter addressed to his Excellency Lord Palmerston, by his Excellency the Hajee, a formal promise has been given, that suitable punishment will be inflicted on the persons concerned in this transaction.

Secondly. With regard to the written and formal apology which you have required should be written by his Excellency the Hajee (may God protect him), on account of the occupation of Major Todd's house by Major-General Semino, in conformity with what you have urged, his Excellency the Hajee has included in the letter which he has written to his Excellency Lord Palmerston, a formal apology upon this subject which you will read.

Translated by
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 65.

Meerza Massood to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

September 20, 1839.
Rejeb 10, 1258.

YOUR friendly letter dated the 17th of Jemadee-ool-Akher (26th of August), inclosing a translation of the copy of the Memorandum addressed by his Excellency Lord Palmerston, British Minister for Foreign Affairs, to Hoossein Khan, was delivered to me by your courier on the 29th of the above month, and I had the honor of submitting it to His Sublime Majesty the Shah-in-Shah (may God perpetuate his reign). As it is the intention of the Persian Government that the friendly relations which have long subsisted between these two ever-enduring Governments, should be re-established on their former footing, and that all unpleasant traces of vexation should be removed, all the demands contained in that Memorandum having been honored by His Majesty's compliance, his Excellency (the foundation of honor) the Hajee has written a letter to Lord Palmerston ratifying and complying with each of those demands, and has sent it to you that it may be forwarded to his Lordship, and for your information a copy of the above letter has been inclosed in this communication.

It is evident that after the perusal of it, all the demands of the British Government from the Persian Government having been complied with, you will no longer consider it necessary to deprive your friends of your society.

What more need be written? Until the time of meeting inform me of your health and all important affairs.

Translated by
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 6 in No. 65.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Meerza Massood.

Sir,

Erzeroom, October 16, 1839.
Shab. n o, 1259.

I HAVE had the honor to receive two letters from your Excellency, dated the 10th of Rejeb (20th September), accompanied by a letter addressed by his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Viscount Palmerston, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and inclosing a copy of that communication, together with copies of two Firmauns also transmitted to Viscount Palmerston.

In the above document, his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee declares that the Persian Government has agreed to comply with the whole of the demands contained in the Memorandum addressed by Viscount Palmerston to Hoossein Khan, and he follows up this declaration by stating that orders have been issued to the Governor of Khorassan, to restore Ghorian to the Affghans, after the arrival of a British Minister at Tehran. I felt it necessary to point out to the Persian Government, that this is not a fulfilment of the demand of Viscount Palmerston, it is only a promise of evacuation after the completion of another transaction. The expressions used by Viscount Palmerston are, "It is necessary that Ghorian and those other places in Affghanistan should be evacuated by the Persians, before the relations between Persia and Great Britain can be replaced upon their former footing of friendship." There is a wide difference between this demand and the proposed mode of fulfilment; nor will you fail to observe that it is required by the British Government that the evacuation should precede, not succeed, the return of friendly relations. As doubtless

the Persian Government is sincere in its declaration of restoring this fortress, it appears to be evident that no good can follow either to England or Persia by deferring that event; far from this, delay, the design and object of which are not at all obvious, now that the Persian Government has resolved to relinquish the possession of that fortress, seems likely to be a cause of farther and useless discussions, tending more to procrastinate than hasten the accomplishment of the reconciliation which the Persian Government professes to desire: neither is it necessary for me to remind your Excellency that the Persian Government had already given a promise to evacuate Ghorian, and that this promise has never yet been executed; and to prevent the recurrence of a similar accident,—for a Firmaun to the Ausef-ood-Dowleh, which can be at all times revoked, and which would not be obeyed without farther orders, by no means contributes to the certainty of the evacuation,—I trust the Persian Government will consider it expedient to give orders for the immediate restoration of Ghorian to the Government of Herat, and inform me when the evacuation has been completed.

In the promise recently given by the Persian Government, the word Ghorian alone is mentioned, but the phrase used by Lord Palmerston is, "Ghorian and those other places," which his Lordship stipulates should be restored to Herat. I have no doubt that this omission on the part of his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee is unintentional, and in pointing it out, I have a full assurance that the necessary amendment will be made by the Persian Government.

The Firmaun of protection to the servants and dependents of the British Mission does not coincide with the demand of Viscount Palmerston, who required that a Firmaun should be promulgated which should be in conformity with what was stated in the Memorandum of Sir John McNeill to the Persian Government on the 4th of June, 1838, and with which the Persian Government had promised to comply. The essential part of the claim contained in that document was, that a Firmaun should be issued stating that the servants of His Majesty the Shah should not in any way interfere with the servants of the British Mission, whether natives of Persia or foreigners, and ordering, that if any of these servants committed an offence, they shall not be punished without the knowledge and concurrence of the British Minister. The Firmaun now offered by the Persian Government is not only different from the foregoing, but is vague and undefined, and I therefore feel confident that the Persian Government will transmit a Firmaun corresponding with that required by Viscount Palmerston. His Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee has not intimated that the above Firmaun has been published as required by Lord Palmerston. In Persia, the only and usual mode of publishing official announcements, is by reading Firmauns in the mosques, and in a conversation between Viscount Palmerston and Hoossein Khan in London, his Lordship signified to him his expectation that the Persian Government should adopt this mode of notifying the nature of the protection which has been granted to the servants of the British Mission, it being clear that to issue a Firmaun, with the contents of which no one shall be acquainted, can be attended with no advantage: and I therefore trust that this omission will be rectified, and that in transmitting a Firmaun of the kind claimed by Viscount Palmerston, the Persian Government will announce that a public promulgation has been given to that document in the mosques of the chief cities.

The same observations are applicable to the intimation given by his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee, with regard to the dismissal of the Governor of Bushire, for the affront committed by him on the British Admiral. Viscount Palmerston demanded that the reason of his removal should be publicly made known by the Persian Government, but no intimation has been given that this portion of the claim of the British Government has been fulfilled, without which reparation is incomplete; and I therefore invite the Persian Government to follow the same course that I have pointed out above, particularly at Bushire, where the event occurred.

His Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee has informed Viscount Palmerston, that the persons implicated in the outrage on the Shroff of the

British Resident at Bushire, shall be punished, and your Excellency has intimated in your letter to me, that a considerable time ago, orders had been sent to the Government of Fars, that these individuals should be chastised. Many months have passed since I made an application on this subject to the Persian Government, and I have reason to know that six weeks ago these persons had not suffered the penalty of their misconduct. When suitable punishment has been inflicted, I request I may be informed of the circumstance.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL

No. 66.

Viscount Palmerston to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.

Foreign Office, January 18, 1840.

THE Undersigned, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, had the honor to receive, on the 26th of December, the letter which Hajee Meerza Aghassee addressed to him on the 15th of last September (5th Rejeb), and which was forwarded by Meerza Massood, His Persian Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil, for transmission to England.

The Undersigned has the honor to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that Her Majesty's Government have read his letter with much pleasure; because that letter shows that the differences between Great Britain and Persia will soon be ended, and that the friendly relations between the two Governments will speedily be re-established; for Hajee Meerza Aghassee says, that all the demands of the British Government, as specified in the memorandum which the Undersigned transmitted to Hoossein Khan on the 11th of last July, have been complied with; and the Undersigned assures Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that whenever those demands shall have been carried into execution, friendship will be restored between the two countries; the British Mission will be re-established in Tehran; and the British troops will evacuate the Island of Karrak.

It appears, however, from Hajee Meerza Aghassee's letter, that the Persian Government, in explaining the manner in which it intends to comply with the demands stated in the memorandum which the Undersigned gave to Hoossein Khan, has, with respect to some of those demands, inadvertently lost sight of the terms in which they were made; but as Hajee Meerza Aghassee declares unequivocally, that it is the wish and intention of the Persian Government to comply with all those demands, the British Government cannot doubt that when the matter shall have been explained by the Undersigned, the Persian Government will, without delay, give the full satisfaction which it has promised to Great Britain.

The memorandum which the Undersigned gave to Hoossein Khan, mentioned nine demands which the British Government make upon the Government of Persia; and the memorandum stated that the friendly relations between the two countries cannot be re-established, until all those demands shall have been fully satisfied. Hajee Meerza Aghassee states in the beginning of his letter of the 15th of September, that the Shah has complied with all those demands; and the Hajee then goes on to explain, one by one, in what manner each demand has been complied with. The Undersigned will go through those demands in the same way, and will point out, with respect to each demand, how far it has been satisfied or not.

The first demand is, "That a written apology shall be made to the British Government for what happened with regard to the British messenger. That apology should not be accompanied by any objectionable matter, and might be made either by the Prime Minister, the Hajee, or, if the Shah prefers it, by a letter from the Shah to the Queen." Hajee Meerza Aghassee says in his letter, "I, your friend, am very sorry for the

seizure of the English courier, on the occasion of the expedition against Herat, and I apologize to your Excellency" (the Undersigned). The Undersigned has the honor to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that the British Government are entirely satisfied with this apology.

The second demand is, "That a Firmaun shall be published in Persia, and a copy of it be communicated to the British Government, assuring protection to all persons, whether British, Persian, or others, who may be employed in the service of the British Mission. This Firmaun to be in conformity with what was stated in Sir John McNeill's memorandum given to the Shah on the 4th of June, 1838."

Now, it was required in Sir John McNeill's memorandum of the 4th June, 1838, "That a Firmaun shall be issued, commanding the servants of His Majesty the Shah not in any way to interfere with the servants of the British Mission, whether natives of Persia or foreigners; and ordering that, if any of these servants should be guilty of an offence, they shall not be punished without the knowledge and concurrence of the British Minister." But the Firmaun, of which Hajee Meerza Aghassee has transmitted a copy to the Undersigned, merely says, "On account of the friendship subsisting between the two ever-enduring Governments of Persia and England, it is agreeable to our favor-dispensing Sublime Majesty, that the servants and dependents of the Ambassadors of the English Government, resident at this Court, should live in all confidence and tranquillity, and should at all times be under the shadow of the protection and favor of our Sublime Majesty: therefore, in this auspicious year of the Hog, this auspicious Firmaun has been written to this effect, that the servants and dependents of the English Government, whether Persians or natives of other countries, are safe and secure; and, under all circumstances, in the same manner as the people of that Government are treated by other Governments, so under this Government also the same treatment will be shown."

It is unnecessary for the Undersigned to enter into a detailed examination of the difference between the Firmaun which the British Government have demanded for the protection of the servants of the British Mission in Persia, and that which the Persian Government has now transmitted. But the Undersigned will content himself with expressing the confident expectation of the British Government, that the Government of Persia, having expressed its intention to comply with all the British demands, will not hesitate to issue a Firmaun in the precise terms required by the British Government. The Undersigned must also further observe, that the demand of the British Government is, that such Firmaun "shall be published in Persia." Now the accustomed mode of publishing Firmauns in Persia, is to cause them to be read publicly in all the mosques throughout the Persian dominions, and Her Majesty's Government therefore trust that an amended Firmaun, drawn up in the manner stated by Sir John McNeill in his memorandum of the 4th June, 1838, will, without delay, be duly published in Persia.

It is hardly necessary for the Undersigned to point out, that unless such a Firmaun is published, and thus made known to all the Persian authorities, and to all the subjects of the Shah, it cannot be effectual for its intended purpose.

The Undersigned has therefore to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that until the British Government shall have learnt that the required Firmaun has been read in the mosques, they cannot consider their second demand to have been carried into execution.

The third demand is, "That Ghorian, and the other places in Affghanistan which have been occupied by the Persian garrisons, shall be evacuated by the Persian troops, and be restored to the Affghans." Hajee Meerza Aghassee, however, in his letter merely says, with reference to this demand, that "orders have been issued to his Excellency the Ausef-ood-Dowleh, Governor of Khorassan, that he shall give up Ghorian and deliver it to the Affghans, after the arrival of the English Ambassador, who is to come here." But the Undersigned must observe to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that this is not a compliance with the demand of the British Government. For, in the first place, the Persian Government engages to

give up Ghorian only, whereas the British Government require that not only Ghorian, but also the other places in Affghanistan which have been occupied by Persian troops, shall be evacuated, and shall be restored to the Affghans; and, in the second place, the Persian Government wishes to delay the evacuation and restoration of Ghorian until after the arrival of the English Mission at Tehran, whereas, the demand of the British Government is, that such evacuation shall take place before the return of the British Mission. Upon this point, Her Majesty's Government cannot in any degree alter, or depart from, the demand which has been made. And the British Government require, that the evacuation of Ghorian and of the other places in Affghanistan, held by Persian troops, and the restoration of that town, and of those places to the Affghans, shall precede the arrival of the British Mission at Tehran. The Undersigned, moreover, thinks it right to remind Hajee Meerza Aghassee, in this place, that the Affghans, to whom Ghorian and those other places in Affghanistan are to be restored, are the Affghan Government established at Herat under Kamran Shah. The Undersigned, therefore, has only to express the confident expectation of the British Government, that orders will immediately be sent to the Persian authorities at Ghorian, and at any other places in Affghanistan which may still be occupied by Persian garrisons, to withdraw from those places, and to restore them to the persons who may be authorized by Kamran Shah to receive them.

The fourth demand is, "That a written apology shall be made by the Persian Government, for the attempt made by Major-General Semino to seize the house at Tehran, which the Shah had placed at the disposal of Major Todd." Hajee Meerza Aghassee says, on this demand, "That for the attempt which Major-General Semino made to possess himself of the house which this Government had given for the residence of Major Todd, I, your friend, apologize." The Undersigned has the honor to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that the British Government are entirely satisfied with this apology.

The fifth demand is, "That all persons concerned in the outrage committed on the person and property of the broker of the British Residency at Bushire, in the month of November, 1838, shall be punished." Hajee Meerza Aghassee says, "To the Firmaun Firma of Fars, a Royal Order has been issued, that he should punish those persons who were guilty of assailing the person or the property of the broker of the British Resident at Bushire." The Undersigned, therefore, has only to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that when the British Government shall have received from that of Persia, satisfactory proof that those orders have been obeyed, and that the persons in question have been actually punished, the British Government will consider their fifth demand to have been complied with, and carried into execution.

The sixth demand is, "That the Governor of Bushire, who was guilty of the affront lately offered to Sir Frederick Maitland, the British Admiral, shall be removed from his command, and that the reason of his removal shall be publicly made known by the Persian Government." To this demand, Hajee Meerza Aghassee has replied, "It has been ordered that the Governor of Bushire, who treated disrespectfully the Admiral of the English Government, shall be dismissed from the Government." But it does not appear, from Hajee Meerza Aghassee's letter, that the Persian Government has publicly made known that the Governor of Bushire has been dismissed from his Government, in consequence of his conduct to the British Admiral; and, until that shall have been done, the Persian Government will not have complied with this sixth demand.

The seventh demand is, "That the claims of Sir Henry Bethune, on account of the iron works in Karadagh, shall be liquidated;" and the eighth demand is, "That the sums due to the British officers shall be paid." In reply to these demands, Hajee Meerza Aghassee says, "The claims of Sir Henry Bethune, for the expenses incurred on the mines, shall be settled agreeably to the Firmaun in his possession; as well as the arrears of pay of the other officers who were in our service." The Undersigned has the honor to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that the British Government are content to receive this assurance on the part of the Persian Govern-

ment at the present time, and to wait for the fulfilment of it, until the time when the British Mission shall arrive at Tehran; but upon the clear understanding that immediately on the arrival of that Mission at Tehran, the Persian Government will redeem their pledge, and pay the money.

The ninth demand is, "That the signature of a Commercial Treaty between Great Britain and Persia, shall accompany the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the two States." Hajee Meerza Aghassee says, upon this, "A Commercial Treaty, agreeably to the arrangement made with Sir John McNeill, the former Minister of the English Government, which comprised two Articles, shall be concluded on the arrival of an English Minister." The Undersigned has the honor to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that the British Government are satisfied, for the present, with this assurance on the part of the Persian Government, and are confident that this distinct and solemn pledge will not be violated by the Government of Persia.

Hajee Meerza Aghassee will see, from what has been now stated, that the British Government has no objection to make to the manner in which the Persian Government has complied with, and proposes to carry into execution, the greater part of the demands contained in the memorandum which the Undersigned transmitted to Hoossein Khan; but with respect to some of those demands, namely the Firmaun for the protection of the servants of the British Mission in Persia, the evacuation of Ghorian and the other places in Affghanistan, satisfaction for the outrage on the broker of the British Residency at Bushire, and for the affront offered to the British Admiral at the same place, the explanations and assurances contained in his Excellency's letter of the 15th of September, are not sufficiently satisfactory to admit of the immediate re-establishment of friendly relations between the British and the Persian Governments. But the Undersigned is fully persuaded that the Persian Government, on considering the observations which it has been the duty of the Undersigned thus to make, will not hesitate to do on these matters what remains to be done. The Undersigned has therefore to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that certain things still remain to be done, in order to carry into effect the declaration contained in Hajee Meerza Aghassee's letter, that all the demands of the British Government shall be complied with; and those things are the following:—

First. That a Firmaun for the protection of the servants of the British Mission in Persia shall be drawn up in the form required by Sir John McNeill, and that such Firmaun shall be published in Persia.

Second. That Ghorian, and all the other places in Affghanistan now held by Persian garrisons, shall be evacuated by those garrisons, and shall be restored to Kamran Shah.

Third. That the satisfaction demanded shall be given to the British Government for the outrage committed on the broker of the British Resident at Bushire. Such satisfaction to consist in the punishment of the persons who committed that outrage.

Fourth. That it shall be made publicly known by the Persian Government, that the late Governor of Bushire was dismissed on account of the affront which he offered to Admiral Maitland.

When these things (all of which were demanded by the memorandum given to Hoossein Khan) shall have been done, the British Mission will return to Tehran; and when, after the return of that Mission to Tehran, the Commercial Treaty, which was also demanded in that memorandum, shall have been signed, then the Island of Karrak will be evacuated by the British troops.

The Undersigned, in conclusion, has the honor to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that he has directed Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to forward to his Excellency the present note; and that he has transmitted to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil a copy of it, with instructions to cause a translation to be forwarded to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, together with the original note. And the British Government trusts that it may shortly receive from the Persian Government such an answer as may lead to the speedy re-establishment of friendly relations between the two countries.

The British Government, with this view, have directed the senior British officer at the Court of Kamran Shah, to lose no time in transmitting to England the earliest information that Ghorian, and all other places in Affghanistan, have been evacuated by the Persian troops, and have been restored to Kamran Shah. But the Undersigned would deceive the Persian Government, if he were to lead that Government to imagine that anything less than a complete execution of all the still unsatisfied demands of the British Government, can bring about a renewal of good understanding between Great Britain and Persia.

The Undersigned, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 67.

Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 20, 1840.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a sealed packet addressed to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, containing my answer to his Excellency's letter inclosed in your despatch of the 19th of October. I inclose, for your information, a copy of that answer, and I have to instruct you to cause a translation of it into Persian to be carefully made, and forwarded to Hajee Meerza Aghassee with the sealed packet containing the original.

I also send you a copy of Hajee Meerza Aghassee's letter, as it appears from your translation of it that the copy sent to you by Meerza Massood was in parts illegible; and you will be careful that the quotations from Hajee Meerza Aghassee's letter, which are inserted in my answer to his Excellency, are accurately transcribed from the original Persian.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 68.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 21, 1840.)

My Lord,

Erzerroom, December 9, 1839.

I HAVE the honor to transmit a translation of a letter from Hajee Meerza Aghassee, in answer to a letter addressed by me to him accompanying a copy and translation of your Lordship's despatch to the Marquess of Clanricarde.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

November 20, 1839.
Ramazan 12, 1255.

THE kind letter which in remembrance of friendship you wrote and sent by your courier Jewad Beg, has reached me, and the agreeable tidings of the good state of your health has afforded me much pleasure. I perused with attention the copy of the letter addressed by his Excellency

Lord Palmerston, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to his Excellency the Marquess Clanricarde, English Ambassador to the Court of Russia, which formed the inclosure to your own letter. Thanks to Almighty God, although a little alienation has existed between the two Governments, it has now been converted into peace and purity of heart, and every endeavour has been made to satisfy the English Government. Please Heaven, it is to be hoped that after this, the Mission of that exalted Government will return to this glorious Court, and the causes of alienation be entirely removed.

It is incumbent upon you, by the rules of friendship, to rejoice us by acquainting your friends of the state of your health, and employ us in the transaction of your affairs.

(Signed) Translated by
WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 69.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 21, 1840.)

(Extract.)

Erzeroom, December 10, 1839.

I WAS in hopes of being able to transmit to your Lordship on the present occasion a letter from the Persian Government, confirmatory of the amicable advances already made by that Court. In these expectations I have been disappointed. From the inclosed translation, accompanied by a copy of a letter from Meerza Ali, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Shah, in answer to my letter to Meerza Massood, inclosed in my despatch of the 19th of October, your Lordship will perceive that a great change has taken place in the tone of the Persian Government, though whether this alteration in its feelings be only towards myself personally, or towards the British Government, in consequence of some fresh scheme which the Persian Government may have in contemplation, admits perhaps of doubt. I, therefore, feel considerable hesitation in assigning a cause for the irritation, affected or real, exhibited so strongly in this letter; and I know not whether to ascribe it to sincere objections to my letter to Meerza Massood, as Meerza Ali asserts, or whether, resolved to make that letter a pretence, the Persian Government may not have been actuated by other motives, and has, perhaps, already repented of the advances it has made. Some circumstances have lately occurred calculated to influence the Persian Court, namely, the near approach of a large French Mission, whose splendour is, of course, much exaggerated, accompanied by a French military detachment, and a large supply of arms, and two other Missions recently arrived at Tehran from Bokhara and Khiva, exclusive of two former Missions from the same places which arrived in Persia some months ago, warning the Shah of the danger impending over all Mahomedan kingdoms, by the advance of the English troops into Affghanistan, and calling on the King of Persia, as a great Chief of the Mussulmans, to take up arms to combat the English Infidels.

I have the honor to inclose a copy of the letter I propose to send in reply to Meerza Ali. The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs conveys to me the direct commands of the King, but in my reply I have assumed that he has written by the instructions of the Ministers of the Persian Government.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

Meerza Ali to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

November 20, 1839.
Ramazan 12, 1259.

THE friendly letter which you despatched by your courier Jewad Beg, arrived on the 25th of Shaban (5th of November), and its friendly contents have been thoroughly understood. With regard to the objections which you have made to various points in the letter of his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee (to Viscount Palmerston), stating that it does not correspond with the claims of the British Government, and is not in conformity with your own opinions; the subject has been submitted to the consideration of his Sublime Majesty, the Protector of the Faith. His Majesty's commands are as follows:—

(Verse). "Hast thou come here to promote unanimity, or hast thou come here to spread discord?" "If your design in these objections is not frivolous pretence and unreasonable pertinacity, it is not possible to write a letter of apology more satisfactory than the above, which was in conformity with all the demands and wishes of Lord Palmerston. Why, therefore, should it be considered by you as insufficient and incomplete, and not be assented to by you. Thus, for instance, with regard to Ghorian, which in truth belongs to me (the Shah), for it was built by Mahomed Khan Karawee, and is included in the territory of Toorbut, and was always in our possession, and was taken by us, by the sword, from the Affghans. We have resigned it to the Affghans at the wish of the English Government, that perhaps you might be satisfied, and the door of these discussions be closed. Still, so it will not be; for you are perpetually seeking fresh pretences. You state that the claim of Lord Palmerston is to restore Ghorian and the other places, but you do not mention where these other places are, and what their names are. Perhaps the British Government wants Khorassan to be delivered to the Affghans? Must we then listen to this? this, indeed, is an affair which involves an impossibility."

"With regard to the letter of his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee, which was written with perfect openness and candour, and to which you have made objections as not being written with veracity (perhaps sincerity may be the translation); we do not know what sincerity is. His Excellency himself made verbal apologies, and they were not accepted. Two or three times too he made written apologies, and these are considered as not being given in sincerity. Do you, therefore, write a copy of what we ought to write, that we may know what sincerity means. In short, since whatever is written from this quarter is dissented from and disapproved by you, we have left these affairs to the consideration of the British Government, and a letter has been written by the Minister of this haughty State to the Minister of the exalted British Government, and has been sent to its destination through Hoossein Khan. Please God, after the arrival of an answer, we will inform you whatever is necessary."

Agreeably to what is necessary I have apprized you of the commands of His Majesty. What more need be written? Pray at all times inform your friends of the agreeable tidings of your welfare.

Translated by
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Meerza Ali.

Sir,

Erzeroom, December 10, 1839.
Shawal 2, 1255.

I HAVE had the honor to receive your letter of the 12th of Ramazan (20th of November, 1839), in answer to my letter of the 6th of Shaban, (16th of October, 1839,) and I have understood the contents of it.

With regard to the interrogation in rhyme of the Minister of the Persian Government, whether I consider it my duty to promote friendship or spread discord, I shall satisfy myself with remarking, that if the Ministers of the Persian Government had been guided by propriety and usage, they would have abstained from a question so unsuitable in itself, and in the style in which it has been conveyed.

I shall therefore proceed to answer the other parts of your letter to which a reply is required.

The Persian Government attributes to frivolous pretence and unreasonable pertinacity the observations contained in my letter regarding the restoration of Ghorian to the Heratees; but it would be desirable that the Ministers of the Persian Government should take the trouble of examining the documents on which their observations are founded, before they allow themselves to use unsuitable expressions or take umbrage at points which have only an imaginary existence. Thus, if the attention of the Persian Government had been sufficiently directed to the memorandum of Viscount Palmerston to Hoossein Khan, it would have found that what I required with regard to Ghorian, was in strict conformity with what was demanded by Viscount Palmerston. His Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee offers to restore Ghorian to the Heratees upon the return of the British Mission to Tehran; but Viscount Palmerston distinctly states, that the restoration of that fortress is to be a preliminary to the re-establishment of friendly relations between England and Persia, and what was urged by me on the Persian Government, was precisely to the same effect; and I still insist, that since the Persian Government does propose to restore Ghorian to the Heratees, it will be to the advantage of the Persian Government to do so at once, because to procrastinate the evacuation of the above fort until the re-establishment in Persia of the British Mission, could scarcely fail to entail a continuance of the discussions which the Persian Government professes so strongly to desire to avoid.

In urging the restoration of Ghorian, I proposed that the Persian Government should, as was demanded by Viscount Palmerston, evacuate other places in Affghanistan, supposed to be in its possession. The Persian Government affects to be in ignorance of what those places may be, and it even pretends to consider that it may be the province of Khorassan which the English Government requires to be delivered to the Affghans. The phrase used in my letter, in quoting from the memorandum of Lord Palmerston to Hoossein Khan, is, "other places in Affghanistan;" and as Khorassan is not supposed to be in Affghanistan, the assumption of the Ministers of the Persian Government on this point appears to be perfectly gratuitous. Moreover, in the summary of the demands of the British Government contained in Lord Palmerston's memorandum to Hoossein Khan, and numbered three, his Lordship again repeats, that Ghorian, "and the other places in Affghanistan which have been occupied by the Persian garrisons, shall be evacuated." Besides which, in the letter addressed by me to his Excellency Meerza Massood, on the 29th of November, 1838, (11th of Ramazan, 1254,) with reference to the continued occupation of Ghorian by the Persian troops, the names of the other places in Affghanistan, whose evacuation in connection with the evacuation of Ghorian is demanded, are distinctly mentioned. It is, therefore, not very intelligible by what means the Persian Government fell into the misconception under which it appears to labor. However, to relieve any farther doubts of the Ministers of the Persian Government of the other places in Affghanistan, whose evacuation I urged, I take this

opportunity of stating that Koorrookh, Furrah, and Subzar, are the places which it was intended to designate.

The Persian Government also complains of my imputations against the veracity or sincerity of his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee, with reference to the adequacy of the apologies made by his Excellency. Here, again, the Ministers of the Persian Government, by not attentively perusing my letter, have suffered themselves to fall into another error, and have expended some argument, and much indignation, in debating a question which is totally without existence. For it so happens, that in my letter I have not made the slightest allusion to the veracity or sincerity of his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee, nor have I directly or indirectly expressed any opinion of the adequacy or insufficiency of his apologies.

What, then, is the real state of this question? His Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee addresses a letter to Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, stating that the Persian Government has fulfilled the whole of the demands of the British Government; but an examination of this document proves that this is not the case on some of the most important points. Thus, in the instance already mentioned, the restoration of Ghorian is withheld until the return to Tehran of the British Mission, while Lord Palmerston required the evacuation to precede that event; and, again, the firmaun of protection to the servants of the British Mission is very different from that claimed by Viscount Palmerston; namely, that it should correspond with the firmaun demanded by his Excellency Sir John McNeill, in his memorandum to the Persian Government, dated June 4, 1838.

I therefore invite the Ministers of the Persian Government to take again into their consideration my letter of the 16th of October last, (6th of Shaban,) to his Excellency Meerza Massood, particularly as they will find that in the above document nothing is urged on the Persian Government which does not coincide with the demands of Lord Palmerston, and with which the Persian Government has signified its full acceptance. With regard to your intimation that a letter has been sent on those subjects to the Ministers of the exalted English Government, by the Ministers of the eminent Persian Government, through Hoossein Khan; as Hoossein Khan has already returned to Persia, it is not improbable that the above letter may not reach its destination, and I therefore take this opportunity of mentioning that I shall be happy to transmit any letters which you may wish to forward to England.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

No. 70.

Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 24, 1840.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a sealed packet, containing a letter from the Secret Committee to the Political Agent at Herat, which you will forward to Herat without loss of time. I inclose, for your information, a copy of that letter, and also a copy of a letter from the Secret Committee to the Resident in the Persian Gulf.

You will perceive that those officers are directed to apprise you when the Persian Government shall have carried into execution the several demands of the British Government, which are still unsatisfied; and it is expedient that you should take measures for ascertaining that the firmaun for the protection of the servants of the British Mission is duly published at Tabreez and at Tehran. But I have to state to you, with reference to my despatch of the 11th of March, 1839, that you will not consider yourself authorized to re-enter the Persian territory, without specific instructions to that effect from this office.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

The Secret Committee of the East India Company to the Political Agent at Herat.

January 22, 1840.

HER Majesty's Ministers have apprized the Government of Persia, that Ghorian, and the other places in Affghanistan, now held by Persian garrisons, shall be evacuated by those garrisons, and shall be restored to Kamran Shah, before friendly relations can be re-established between Great Britain and Persia. And Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has informed the Persian Minister, that you will transmit to England the earliest intelligence you may receive, of such evacuation and restoration. We, therefore, direct your particular attention to this point, and we desire that so soon as these operations have been effected, you will transmit information thereof, sending your reports in duplicate, one through Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil at Erzeroom, and the other by way of Bombay.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

The Secret Committee of the East India Company to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

January 22, 1840.

AMONG the demands which Her Majesty's Ministers have made on the Persian Government, are three, to which we wish to call your particular attention:

First. That a firmaun be issued, commanding the servants of the Shah not in any way to interfere with the servants of the British Mission, whether natives of Persia, or foreigners; and ordering, that if any of these servants should be guilty of an offence, they shall not be punished without the knowledge and concurrence of the British Minister; and that this firmaun be published in the accustomed mode of Persia, by being read publicly in all the Mosques throughout the Persian dominions.

Second. That all persons concerned in the outrage committed on the person and property of the broker of the British Residency at Bushire, in November, 1838, shall be punished. And,

Third. That it shall be made publicly known by the Persian Government, that the late Governor of Bushire was dismissed on account of the affront which he offered to the British Admiral.

We direct that you inform yourself of whatever may take place at Bushire with respect to these demands; and that you communicate the intelligence you may receive to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil, at Erzeroom.

No. 71.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 26.)

(Extract.)

Erzeroom, February 7, 1840.

I HAVE the honor to inclose for your Lordship's information, the translation of a letter just received from the Persian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, in reply to my letter of the 10th December, 1839, a copy of which formed an inclosure in my despatch of the 10th December, 1839, to your Lordship's address.

Your Lordship will perceive from this communication that while there is again a considerable improvement in the tone of the Persian Government, the resolution to retain Ghorian is still persisted in, and that there seems little likelihood of the Shah consenting to have the firmaun of protection to the servants of the British Mission, read in the Mosques, while

no allusion is now made by the Persian Government to the fact, that the firmaun which they promised does not coincide with that which your Lordship and Sir John McNeill demanded.

Your Lordship will also perceive that no notice is taken by the Persian Government of the demand made on it, to have the cause of the dismissal of the Governor of Bushire, published.

As I have still the conviction, formerly expressed to your Lordship, that the Persian Government has no intention of evacuating Ghorian at present, or at all events they will now wait for a communication from your Lordship on the subject, I do not propose to reiterate the demand about that fortress, or again to point out that the other demands of your Lordship are still unfulfilled, but I intend to represent to the Persian Government, that as Hoossein Khan has now returned to Persia, and no longer retains his rank of Ambassador, it would be more consistent with established usage to send their communications through the British Mission; and I may again bring to their notice, that the firmaun for the protection of the servants of the British Mission, promised by the Persian Government, does not agree with that demanded by your Lordship.

I have reason to think that if the Persian Government has sent a communication to Hoossein Khan for transmission to England, it had not left Tabreez on the 27th of January, when our last messenger quitted that city.

I take the liberty of suggesting, that if your Lordship felt inclined to recede from the demand of having the firmauns read in the Mosques, perhaps your Lordship would consider it sufficient were they published in the Journal, which the Persian Government occasionally issues at Tehran. I must however observe, that this mode of publication would be more nominal than real; neither do I feel certain that the Persian Government would accede to this proposal.

I have also the honor to inclose the translation of another letter from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs to my address, which does not contain anything of importance.

Inclosure 1 in No. 71.

Meerza Ali to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

January 23, 840.
Zil-Kadeh 17, 1256.

THE letter of the 2nd Shawal (10th December, 1839), which you sent by your courier Awez Beg, reached me on the 25th of the same month. I have understood the whole of its contents, and represented them to His Majesty, who has commanded me to write the following answer.

First. As to the evacuation of Ghorian, you state that you have not made frivolous excuses or been unreasonably pertinacious, and that if the Ministers of the Persian Government would reconsider the Memorandum which his Excellency Lord Palmerston wrote to Hoossein Khan, it would be evident that the demand which you made concerning the castle of Ghorian was in strict conformity with that of Lord Palmerston, and that it is clear Lord Palmerston has demanded that the evacuation of Ghorian shall precede the re-establishment of friendship between the two States, and you now also repeat, that since the Persian Government has resolved to relinquish Ghorian to the Heratees, it would be more advantageous that this should be done, without delaying until the return of the English Mission to Persia, because it will only tend to continue discussions, from the prolongation of which the Persian Government itself professes to desire to abstain; and that with reference to the evacuation of Ghorian, and the other places in Affghanistan, your intention was to specify Koorrookh, Furrah, and Subzar, which it was conceived were still in the possession of the Persian Government, and not other places in Khorassan. His Majesty's commands are, that your cordial desire for the preservation of the friendship of both Governments are thoroughly known, but the

contents of the Memorandum of his Excellency Lord Palmerston have not escaped the recollection of the Ministers of the Persian Government, that they should again require to consider them: they are to the following effect; that he has desired the evacuation of Ghorian and other places in the territory of Affghanistan alone. It is not to be implied from this, that Ghorian shall be evacuated before the re-establishment of friendship as formerly between the two States; and if we in this affair say that you seek excuses, and are unreasonably pertinacious, it cannot be said that we are altogether in the wrong. The case stands thus: Ghorian was built by Izhak Khan, and belongs to the district of Toorbut, which we re-took by the sword. In consequence of the wishes of the exalted English Government, we have written officially, that after the arrival of the Minister of the English Government at this Court, Ghorian will be evacuated, and afterwards, by God's favor, we shall not act contrary to what we have written; therefore, what need is there of lengthening discussion? We, too, refrain from discussing the evacuation of Karrak, and the other demands which we have, until the English Mission arrive, and these discussions on both sides be brought to an amicable settlement. Concerning the evacuation of the other places of Affghanistan which were not specified by name, His Majesty's commands are, that at the time we returned from Herat, Koorrookh, Furrah, and Subzar, were evacuated, which is known to every one; therefore, if by "other places," we supposed that a part of Khorassan was intended to be implied, we were not much in error (meaning, that it is not surprising that they should have thought that part of Khorassan was meant).

Second. Regarding the firmaun of protection to the servants of the English Government, of which you have stated it is the demand of Lord Palmerston that the substance of the firmaun shall be read in the mosques of the large cities of Persia, in order that it may be made public, His Majesty says, that the meaning of His Excellency Lord Palmerston's paper on this subject is this, that by making public the firmaun, henceforward the persons and servants connected with the English Mission may be secure from injury and ill-treatment. What mode of publication is better than that such a firmaun shall be registered in the auspicious records of His Majesty, and its contents should be made public in the capital, the centre of the State, the resort of people from every city and every country; he (Lord Palmerston) has not imposed upon us the obloquy of reading the firmaun in the mosques of the chief cities.

Third. With reference to the transmission of letters to the British Government through Hoossein Khan, you stated, that as he has returned to Persia, it is probable that the letters may not reach their destination, and that whatever letters there might be, should be sent to you, in order to be forwarded to the Ministers of the British Government. His Majesty has commanded that since His Excellency Lord Palmerston has himself written that the Ministers of the Persian Government may send to you or to Hoossein Khan any communications, we have sent them through Hoossein Khan, that wherever he may be, he shall send an express courier to the Ministers of the English Government, and he has already done so. His Majesty also added, "By the searcher and knower of all secret thoughts, we have no other wish than that the two exalted Governments may again return to their former state of friendship, and that the pillars of amity of the two Governments may be strengthened; thus, in consequence of the demands and wishes of the English Government, we have suffered the loss of property and subjects, and abandoned the taking of Herat; and finally, the other matters of less consequence have also been cordially fulfilled; and it is, therefore, incumbent on you, (Colonel Sheil,) to give the strongest assurances to the Ministers of the exalted English Government of the cordial disposition of our feelings towards it."

Translated by
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 71.

Meerza Ali to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

After Compliments.

Tehran, January 23, 1840.
Zil-Kadeh 17, 1255.

AWEZ BEG, the courier of that exalted friend, is returning from the sacred Court of the King; the strong friendship which I entertain towards you compels me to address to you this friendly letter, and to make known to you the great pleasure which I should feel in meeting you, to renew my personal intercourse with you. Heaven be praised, the foundation of our friendship is not of such a nature as to admit of your discontinuing to make inquiries of the welfare of your friends, or your anxious friend being desirous of renewing his acquaintance with you; in saying this, I only say what is most evident and obvious in itself. In truth, I am excessively sorry at the absence of that exalted friend, nor can I keep concealed my vexation at this circumstance. Please God, I am in strong hopes that the cordial efforts of that exalted friend will be directed to terminating the discussions between the two Governments, and that you will gladden your friends by your agreeable conversation, and cease to afflict your friends by your absence. What more need I write?

Translated by
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 72.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 16.)

My Lord,

Erzeroom, May 12, 1840.

I HAVE the honor to transmit a letter to your Lordship's address from Hajee Meerza Aghassee, which reached me yesterday.

The Persian Government having furnished me with a copy of this letter, and of the documents accompanying it, I have the honor to inclose translations of these communications. The letter said to be addressed to the Persian Government by Kamran Shah, contains no date in the copy forwarded to me, but I have reason to believe it reached the Shah's camp about the commencement of April, and that the bearer of it had returned to Herat. I have considered it right to send Major Todd a copy of this paper.

With regard to the intimation of the Prime Minister, that firmauns ensuring protection to the servants of the British Mission had been despatched to the authorities in all parts of Persia, I have requested Mr. Bonham to ascertain if this promise has been fulfilled in Tabreez, and I have made arrangements for obtaining similar information from Tehran.

I beg leave to point out that, in the copy of the above firmaun forwarded to me, there is an omission of considerable importance. The firmaun claimed by Sir John McNeill, the demand for which was renewed by your Lordship, contained a declaration that no servant of the British Mission accused of a crime could be punished "without the knowledge and concurrence" of the British Minister. In the copy in my possession, the important word "concurrence" is omitted, nor is the omission supplied by any equivalent expression.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Viscount Palmerston.

April 21, 1840.

THE friendly letter which you addressed to me on the 18th of January, 1840, reached me on the 4th of Seffer, (7th of April, 1840,) when the royal troops had pitched their camp at Sadetabad, near Ispahan. I have most carefully perused, from the commencement to the end, the friendly contents of this communication; and it has produced in my friendly mind the most unbounded joy that the vexation which, without cause or reason, and from conjecture and the calumnies of certain persons seeking their own objects, had been excited in the eminent British Government, was entirely dissipated, and that the British Government had acquired the conviction that the Persian Government had not the slightest wish to renounce the friendship of the *former Court**, and that the Persian Court was beyond measure anxious that the friendly relations between both exalted States, which have subsisted from remote times, should be replaced on their former footing, and from day to day receive access of strength and stability.

With regard to various demands which you have declared to be unfulfilled, these matters are trifling and immaterial; and the Ministers of this supreme and ever-enduring Kingdom, for the sake of gratifying the Ministers of the eminent British Government, neither have withheld nor will withhold their assent to them, that, by the will of God, these trifling points having been fulfilled, nothing may remain to obstruct the renewal of friendly relations, and the return of the Mission of the exalted British Government.

One of the above points was the promulgation of a firmaun which you requested should be in conformity with the firmaun demanded by his Excellency Mr. Mc Neill, and should be read in the mosques and pulpits.

Although at no time, nor on any occasion, has anything contrary to propriety been committed by the natives of the heaven-guarded Kingdom of Persia in relation to the persons connected with the British Government, yet, agreeably to the wish of your Excellency, firmauns corresponding with the inclosed copy, which I have the honor to forward, have been written and transmitted to all quarters.

Secondly, with regard to what you have indicated relative to the removal of the Governor of Bushire; although the initiative and commencement of any affair *detrimental to the ties of confidence*†, did not proceed from him (the Governor), yet, solely in compliance with the friendly expectation expressed by your Excellency, he has been dismissed, and it has been announced to every one that his removal has taken place by desire of the British Government.

Thirdly, with regard to the outrage committed at Bushire on the Jewish broker, a Persian subject in the employment of the Resident at Bushire; although *there is no evidence*‡ by which party it (the tumult) was commenced, still, in compliance with the desire expressed by you in a friendly spirit, it has been directed that they (the perpetrators) should be punished, and that the persons concerned in this transaction, and which transaction is opposed to the *sentiments*§ of the Ministers of this haughty State (Persia) should be suitably chastised.

Fourthly, with regard to Ghorian; *at this time a representation (a copy of which I inclose) has been received from Prince Kamran claiming the protection of Persia. It is evident that he who is sincere towards Persia must be sincere towards England, and will by no means hesitate in rendering devoted services of every description to both States; and (from the favor of His Majesty) on no point or occasion (as thank God has been the case until the present moment) have they spared their services; and thus on this occasion the Ministers of the Persian Government*

* British Government.

† Which could be regarded as an infringement of Treaties.

‡ It has not been proved.

§ Will.

have no objection to restore Ghorian. After you have perused the above communication (from Kamran Shah) the real state of circumstances will be apparent to your Excellency.*

With regard to "the other places" which have been alluded to, it is well known that no place is held by force or compulsion in the possession of the Ministers of the Persian Government. But the Eimaks (tribes in the neighbourhood of Herat) themselves, and the people established in the vicinity of Herat, have thrown themselves for protection on the ever-enduring Persian Government, although at no time has there been a garrison, nor have there been troops placed in those districts who could have forced them to submit to the exalted Persian Government. These places belong to these people themselves.

I trust that I shall be regarded as the friend and sincere well-wisher of both exalted Governments, and that your Excellency will rejoice my friendly mind by continually communicating friendly epistles.

May your Excellency be perpetually the ornament of the Administration, and may your wishes be accomplished.

Translated by
(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

Translation of the Copy of the Firmaun inclosed in the above Letter.

LET the Governors and Authorities of all the Country know, that referring to the unity existing between the two mighty Governments of Persia and England, the object of our Royal desire is, that the servants and dependents of the Mission† of the mighty Government of England, who are stationary at the Court of this haughty Government, may, in all confidence and tranquillity of mind, remain under the shadow of the protection of our clemency and Sublime Majesty, and that never in this God-protected land, in any possible manner should they be exposed to loss or detriment of any kind in their lives or property.

Therefore this auspicious and happy firmaun, which all the world obeys, is proclaimed and issued to give notice to the above-mentioned (Governors and Authorities), that all the servants and dependents of the English Mission, whether these be Persians or natives of other countries, are, as in times past, in safety and under protection, and that they should rejoice in the kindness and consideration of the Ministers of this haughty State; and should any of these (servants and dependents of the English Government) be guilty of any crime, they *shall not be punished without the knowledge of the English Minister‡.*

Therefore these high personages (the Governors to whom this firmaun is addressed), fully regarding the amity subsisting between the two great States, must act in conformity to this order; and after having paid obedience to this auspicious firmaun, let its meaning reach the ears of all the people of the whole Country, and let them know that it is imperative.

Translated by
(Signed) J. P. RIACH.

* Although a letter has recently arrived from His Highness Kamran, (a copy of which is transmitted,) to the effect that he has put himself under the protection of the Persian Government; (yet) it is evident that he who is faithful to Persia will be faithful to England, and will not refrain from rendering any kind of service, or evincing his good-will to the two States,—and (as) by the favor of His Majesty the Shah, they have not even up to this moment, in any respect whatsoever, spared their services, so now, also, the heads of the Persian Government will not grudge to restore Ghorian.

After perusing the copy of the letter, (from Kamran,) the real state of matters will be evident to your Excellency.

† The words (of the Mission) do not occur in the Persian copy at this place.

‡ Shall not be molested or punished without the permission and knowledge of the English Minister.

Inclosure 3 in No. 72.

Translation of the Copy of the Letter from Kamran Shah, inclosed in Hajee Meerza Aghassee's Letter to Viscount Palmerston of the 21st of April, 1840.

I SHALL in this pure communication truly represent the arrival and movements of the *officers of the English Government** in these parts, information of which has, perhaps, already been received by the Ministers of that ever-enduring State (Persia).

They have, one way or other, seized Candahar and Cabool, and an English officer has come on a Mission (to me) and is now here. Although he openly displays sincerity and co-operates with me, and is no way backward in expending money, and giving gold and presents, it is owing to the necessities which now press upon me, that I find it expedient to keep on good terms with him for some days; *but the desire of my heart is with Persia and with Islam*† (the Mahommedan faith), my hands shall never be loosened from the skirts of the Government of His Majesty (the Shah). I shall not barter my religion for this world, and I shall never consent to my own disgrace. For these reasons I have sent Zeber Dest Khan, one of my confidential people, to the Court of that *brother whom I obey*‡, that the true state of our condition, and what is in the recesses of this sincere heart, may in all their details and with perfect truth be made known to the nobles of that ever-enduring Government (Persia), and that, please God, by the *exertions of the Ministers of this Government (Herat)*§, and through the support of that haughty State (Persia), your Majesty being made acquainted with the evil condition to which I have been brought by that Government (Persia), I hope our former state of prosperity may be brought back to us, and that countries severed from Islam may, by the aid of the Shah of Islam (Persia), be recovered, and after the completion of our wishes, that the useful fruits of them may be realized in the manner which Zeber Dest Khan (will) represent, all of whose statements may be fully relied on.

So, requisitions of the same nature are (now) written by the faithful Vizier Yar Mahommed Khan and Sirdar Sheer Mahommed Khan, in their representations to the Ministers of that Government (Persia), and the real state of circumstances has been fully detailed by them.

That which now seems absolutely and positively necessary for the preservation of our religion, and the customs of Islam (Mahommedanism), and incumbent on our zeal and for the preservation of our reputation, is, that with God's blessing, we should unite ourselves in these circumstances to the King of Islam (Shah of Persia).

In short, this matter now lies at the discretion of His Majesty (the Shah), and if His Majesty fails to avert these evils, and be neglectful of them, in eternity we will not be held responsible: there my hands will be on your skirt.

It is now two years that I have entertained these thoughts, and Sirdar Sheer Mahommed Khan has exerted himself much in this matter, but no results have been produced.

Why should I give your Majesty more trouble?

In conclusion, may the sun of the royalty and of the dominion of the King of Kings of Islam (the Shah of Persia) be perpetual.

Translated by
(Signed) J. P. RIACH.

* English General's army.

† My hopes are directed towards Islam (Persia).

‡ Respected brother.

§ Aid of your Majesty's Ministers.

No. 73.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 1.)

My Lord,

Erzeroom, July 2, 1840.

I HAVE the honor to inclose for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter addressed to me by Hajee Meerza Aghassee, dated 12th of June. The tone of cordiality apparent in this communication is in accordance with the usual style of Persian correspondence. Your Lordship will perceive it contains no intimation that the demand of the British Government relative to Ghorian, the publication of the firmaun of protection to the servants of the Mission, and the punishment of the persons implicated in the outrage on the Residency broker at Bushire, have been fulfilled.

Mr. Bonham has informed me, that no firmauns had been published or received at Tabreez, and similar information has reached me from Tehran.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JUSTIN SHEIL.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Hajee Meerza Aghassee to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil.

(Translation.)

June 12, 1840.
Rebbec-oos-Sanee 10, 1256.

YOUR kind letter of remembrance, written in the sincerity of friendship, and sent by your courier, Awez Beg, reached me at a favorable and propitious moment, and the good tidings of your safety and friendship afforded me the greatest pleasure.

You have written, that the letter which I addressed to his Excellency Lord Palmerston, Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, had been forwarded by you to its destination. From the devotion and sincerity of that kind friend, (Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil,) it is obvious, that every effort is used by him in endeavouring to reconcile the two ever-enduring States; and since all the demands of the Ministers of the exalted English Government have been acceded to, please Heaven, an answer replete with satisfaction and contentment will arrive; and the Mission of the English Government having returned, (which is the highest desire of the Persian Government,) day by day friendship and unanimity will increase in strength, and the absence and separation of friends will be no longer prolonged. The rules of friendship require, that in always communicating the state of your health and affairs, you should rejoice your friends.

Translated by

(Signed)

WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 74.

Viscount Palmerston to Hajee Meerza Aghassee.

Foreign Office, November 24, 1840.

THE Undersigned, &c., had the honor to receive, on the 16th of June, the letter which Hajee Meerza Aghassee addressed to him on the 21st of April (18th of Seffer), and which was transmitted to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to be forwarded to England.

Hajee Meerza Aghassee states in the beginning of that letter, that the Persian Government will do its best to accomplish the wishes of Her Majesty's Government with respect to those demands of Great Britain which the Undersigned, in his note of the 18th of January, pointed out as remaining unfulfilled by the Government of Persia.

This declaration afforded much gratification to the Undersigned, and he was led thereby to expect that he would have found from the letter of His Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that complete satisfaction had been afforded

by the Persian to the British Government. But the Undersigned regrets to observe that this is not the case.

The first of the above-mentioned demands of Her Majesty's Government was, "That a firmaun for the protection of the servants of the British Mission in Persia, shall be drawn up in the form required by Sir John Mc Neill, and that such firmaun shall be published in Persia." Now his Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee says, that firmauns have been written and transmitted to all quarters; that these firmauns correspond with that of which his Excellency incloses a copy, and declare "that all the servants and dependents of the English Mission, whether these be Persians or natives of other countries, are, as in times past, in safety and under protection, and that they should rejoice in the kindness and consideration of the Ministers of this haughty State; and should any of these be guilty of any crime, they shall not be molested or punished without the permission and knowledge of the English Minister." Upon this, the Undersigned has the honor to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee that the British Government, having thus received from him this positive assurance that a firmaun has been published in Persia, securing the servants of the British Mission from being punished without the permission and knowledge of the English Minister,—the British Government considers the first demand contained in the note of the Undersigned of the 18th of January, as having been complied with and carried into execution; and Her Majesty's Government is, therefore, satisfied on this point.

The second demand was, "That Ghorian, and all the other places in Afghanistan now held by Persian garrisons, shall be evacuated by those garrisons, and shall be restored to Kamran Shah." Hajee Meerza Aghassee says, in reply to this demand, that "although a letter has recently arrived from his Highness Kamran (a copy of which is transmitted) to the effect that he has put himself under the protection of the Persian Government, [yet] it is evident that he who is faithful to Persia will be faithful to England, and will not refrain from rendering any kind of service, or evincing his good-will to the two States; and [as] by the favor of His Majesty the Shah, they have not, even up to this moment, in any respect whatsoever spared their services, so now also the heads of the Persian Government will not grudge to restore Ghorian:" and Hajee Meerza Aghassee further says, with reference to the "other places in Afghanistan," that "it is well known that no place is held by force or compulsion in the possession of the Ministers of the Persian Government."

The Undersigned regrets to have to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee that the British Government do not consider his Excellency's reply on this point, respecting the evacuation of Ghorian, to be by any means satisfactory. The Undersigned had the honor to state to his Excellency, in his note of the 18th of January, that "the British Government require that the evacuation of Ghorian, and of the other places in Afghanistan, held by Persian troops, and the restoration of that town and of those places to the Affghans," (that is to say, to "the Affghan Government established at Herat under Kamran Shah,") "shall precede the arrival of the British Mission at Tehran;" and though the British Government is willing to believe Hajee Meerza Aghassee's formal declaration, that, with the exception of Ghorian, "no place is held by force or compulsion in the possession of the Ministers of the Persian Government;" yet the British Government cannot accept as a compliance with, or as an execution of, their second demand, the assurance that "the Persian Government will not grudge to restore Ghorian."

The demand of the British Government was, not that the Persian Government should declare its willingness to evacuate Ghorian at some future time, but that Ghorian should be actually and immediately evacuated; and the Undersigned is under the necessity of again repeating, that the unconditional evacuation of Ghorian by the Persians and its restoration to the Affghan Government established at Herat under Kamran Shah, must precede the return of the British Mission to Tehran, and that nothing short of such evacuation and restoration can be accepted as a compliance with this second British demand.

The third demand was, "That satisfaction shall be given to the British Government for the outrage committed on the broker of the British Resident at Bushire: such satisfaction to consist in the punishment of the persons who committed that outrage." His Excellency Hajee Meerza Aghassee says, in

reply to this demand, that "it has been directed," "that the persons concerned in this transaction should be suitably chastised." The Undersigned has the honor to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that the British Government are willing to trust to the good faith of the Government of Persia for the fulfilment of this announcement, by the actual punishment of the offenders; and therefore Her Majesty's Government is willing to consider this third demand as having been complied with.

The fourth demand was, "That it shall be made publicly known by the Persian Government, that the late Governor of Bushire was dismissed on account of the affront which he offered to Admiral Maitland." Hajee Meerza Aghassee says, in reply to this demand, that "he" (the Governor of Bushire) "has been dismissed, and it has been announced to every one that his removal has taken place by desire of the British Government." The Undersigned has the honor to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that the British Government are content to consider this fourth demand as complied with and satisfied.

Hajee Meerza Aghassee will see, from what has been now stated, that, with respect to three out of the four British demands which the Undersigned, in his note of the 18th of January, stated to be at that time unsatisfied, the British Government are content to accept the satisfaction which has been given by the Persian Government, as specified in his Excellency's note of the 21st of April; but the remaining demand, which relates to Ghorian, remains still uncomplied with. The British Government, indeed, rejoice to find that the result of the communications which have taken place between the two Governments has been, that all the causes of difference between them have, with one single exception, now been removed; and Her Majesty's Government cannot but indulge a lively hope, that the same spirit of justice, and the same conciliatory disposition on the part of the Persian Government, which have led to the removals of the greater number of the subjects of difference, which had interrupted the friendly relations of the two countries, will also stimulate the Government of Persia to surmount the only remaining obstacle which prevents the re-establishment of those friendly relations, which so long and so happily subsisted between the two Governments, and that Ghorian will be evacuated without further delay.

The Undersigned has now the honor to state to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, that Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil has been directed to forward this letter to his Excellency, together with a Persian translation thereof, and to send them by one of the members of the British Mission, who will also be directed to accompany the officer, whom the Persian Government may employ to carry into effect the evacuation of Ghorian, and the restoration of that place to Kamran Shah. This British Agent will be directed to abstain from entering into any discussion with Hajee Meerza Aghassee, or with any of the Persian Ministers, on any subject not necessarily connected with the details of the arrangements for the evacuation of Ghorian; and he will be authorized to remain at the Persian Court for the space of twenty-one days, in order to give the Persian Government time for making its preparations, and for despatching its officer to Ghorian in company with the British Agent. But if, at the expiration of those twenty-one days, the Persian Government should not have despatched its officer to Ghorian with full authority to effect the evacuation of that place, and its restoration to the Affghans of Herat, then the British Agent will withdraw from the Persian Court, and will proceed to join Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil; and it will in that case remain for the British Government to decide, what course it shall adopt to give effect to its determination of procuring the restoration of Ghorian to Kamran Shah.

But the British Government, in the confident expectation that the Persian Government will no longer delay a compliance with its demand respecting Ghorian, has further instructed Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil to direct the agent whom he may send to the Persian Court, that after he shall have witnessed the evacuation of Ghorian and its restoration to the Affghans, he shall send, without loss of time, intelligence of that event to the British authorities in India, and also to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil for the information of the British Government in England.

The Undersigned requests Hajee Meerza Aghassee to accept the assurance of his distinguished consideration.

The Undersigned, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 75.

Viscount Palmerston to Lieutenant-Colonel Shiel.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 24, 1840.

HER Majesty's Government have had under consideration the letter from Hajee Meerza Aghassee of the 21st of April, transmitted in your despatch of the 12th of May; and I now forward to you a sealed packet addressed to his Excellency, containing my answer to his letter, and a copy of that answer for your information.

I also transmit to you copies of Hajee Meerza Aghassee's letter and of its inclosures in Persian, because it appears from your despatch that there is a material omission in the copy of one of those papers transmitted to you by the Persian Government. That omission is supplied in the copy transmitted to me, as you will find on examining the firmaun, the paper to which I allude, in which the word "ezn," signifying, as I am informed, "permission," is inserted before the word "ettalah," or "knowledge."

Her Majesty's Government are satisfied to accept the firmaun communicated to me by Hajee Meerza Aghassee as a compliance with the first demand contained in my note to his Excellency of the 18th of January; for even if the Persian Government have published in Persia a firmaun differing from the copy which Hajee Meerza Aghassee has transmitted to me, still the copy so transmitted must constitute the engagement of the Persian Government towards the Government of Great Britain; and the Persian Government cannot appeal to another instrument of a different term or import.

But Hajee Meerza Aghassee does not advert to the demand that this firmaun should be published by being read in the mosques. He merely says that it has been transmitted to all quarters. Her Majesty's Government, however, do not think it worth while to stand out upon this point which, after all, is of secondary importance; and Her Majesty's Mission will be able, on its return to Persia, to give to the firmaun all requisite publicity.

For these reasons, Her Majesty's Government, as you will perceive by my note to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, declare themselves satisfied as to their first demand.

With regard to the third and fourth demands specified in my note of the 18th of January, you will see that Her Majesty's Government are content to accept as a satisfaction of those demands, the assurances contained in Hajee Meerza Aghassee's letter. It is possible that, in the unsettled state of the country, the Persian Government might not have the power to inflict punishment on the persons who molested the broker of the British Resident at Bushire; and as several Governors have now been appointed to and removed from Bushire since the time when the affront was offered at that place to Sir Frederick Maitland, it has become a matter of comparatively little moment that the Persian Government should declare that a particular Governor was removed three years ago on account of that transaction. Dismissals and their announcement are of importance when the offences for which they are a punishment, are recent and fresh in the minds of men; but, when long delayed, they lose their value and cease to be worth insisting upon.

With respect, however, to the second demand, namely, that Ghorian shall be restored to the Affghan Government of Herat, you will perceive that Her Majesty's Government are not satisfied with the answer of the Persian Government on that point; but that Her Majesty's Government still insist as an indispensable preliminary to the re-establishment of friendly relations between the two Countries, that Ghorian shall be given up by the Persians to the Heratees.

In conformity with what I have stated in my note to Hajee Meerza Aghassee, I have to instruct you to forward that note to the Persian Court by one of the gentlemen attached to your Mission. You will acquaint that gentleman that the main object for which he is sent is, that he may accompany any officer whom the Persian Government may select to carry into effect the evacuation of Ghorian by the Persian troops, and to deliver up that place to the Affghan Government established at Herat under Kamran Shah. You will

enjoin the gentleman whom you may send for that purpose to abstain from all discussion with any of the Persian Ministers on any subject not immediately connected with the arrangements for the evacuation and surrender of Ghorian, such as the appointment of the Persian officer who is to execute that service, the issuing of the formal orders relating to it, and the providing of the means of transport for the Persian troops and stores to be withdrawn from Ghorian. You will instruct your agent, upon receiving intimation from the Persian Government that an officer has been appointed for this service, to send off immediately a statement of that fact to Major Todd at Herat, in order that Major Todd may make the requisite arrangements with the Government of Herat. Your agent, on arriving at Ghorian, will freely communicate with Major Todd on all matters connected with the service on which he has been sent; and when that service is completed he will report the same to the Governor-General of India, and he will return without delay to join you wherever you may be, in order that you may make your report to Her Majesty's Government.

But, in order to guard against any indefinite procrastination in this affair on the part of the Persian Court, you will acquaint the gentleman whom you may send, that if, at the expiration of twenty-one days from his arrival at the Persian Court, the Persian Government shall not have despatched to Ghorian full authority for the evacuation and surrender of that place, he will then withdraw from the Persian Court, and rejoin you wherever you may be.

You will instruct your agent to conduct himself towards the Persian Ministers on all occasions with moderation and forbearance, and to remember that he is not commissioned to argue with them any questions of policy, but merely to arrange with them matters of detail.

You will cause my letter to Hajee Meerza Aghassee to be accurately translated, and you will forward that translation to his Excellency with the original.

I am, &c.,

(Signed)

PALMERSTON.

Correspondence relating to Persia Presented to both houses of Parliament
by command of Her Majesty. 1841

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